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Ross to present new peace proposals

By HILIEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration is hopeful that the upcoming trip to the region by special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross will spur a resumption of negotiations, but cautioned that the Israeli-Palestinian gap remains wide.

Weizman-Arafat meeting?

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Renewing security cooperation, initiating final-status talks, and resuming discussions on implementing the interim agreements are the three components of the American package for salvaging the peace process, a senior US official said Friday.

The US wants each side to rebuild the other's trust in the process, he said. For the Palestinian Authority, that means resuming security ties, while Israel is expected to take "no unilateral actions" in Jerusalem and the territories, presumably meaning further construction projects.

The rebuilding of trust is necessary due to the "breakdown" in relations between the sides, he added.

In his briefing Friday, acting State Department spokesman John Dinger said Ross is "going out there to see what steps the parties are willing to take to try and ... restore confidence, get the process back on track."

"This is a long-term process, as we all know. And this is one stage in a long-term process," Dinger said.

Ross and the US peace team, including State Department and National Security Council officials, will be returning just two weeks after their most recent mission. This visit, to begin tomorrow, will likely include only Jerusalem and Gaza. The US will then decide on what further steps to take.

For now, the official said, restoring security cooperation and resuming interim arrangements may have to suffice, since getting to final-status talks is seen to be unlikely soon.

Renewing security cooperation should not, in any case, be a precondition to other negotiations, he added.

With the now-two-month break in construction in Har Homa, the US is concerned that the stalemate could continue until "there is an explosion" on the political or security levels that would create an even greater crisis - "something like what we saw in September, or in February-March 1996," the official said, referring to the fighting following the Western Wall Tunnel exit opening, and the series of suicide bombings.

Complicating the US's attempt to find a formula to resume the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is the administration's continued inability to discern what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's strategy is regarding relations with the Palestinians and his approach to final-status negotiations, the official said.

Also Friday, the State Department reissued an alert to Palestinian-Americans to acquire the proper documentation before traveling to the territories via Israel.

Dinger offered the suggestion Friday, saying that Palestinian-Americans have encountered difficulty transiting Gaza and the West Bank through Israel.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair waves as he arrives at No. 10 Downing Street on Friday following his landslide victory. (Reuters)

Blair takes Britain's helm

News agencies

LONDON - Britain's Labor Party has won its greatest-ever victory and Tony Blair didn't waste any time yesterday starting to do something his party hasn't done in a generation. Govern.

Even though it was the start of a three-day holiday weekend, Blair arrived at 10 Downing St. and started making final decisions on the rest of his cabinet. One of his first moves after becoming prime minister was to name seven key members.

Throughout the morning, senior Labor figures arrived at 10 Downing St. Several walked away with cabinet positions, including Marjorie Mowlam in the key post as Northern Ireland secretary and George Robertson as defense secretary.

"For 18 years, 18 long years, our party has been in opposition," Blair declared Friday as he took possession of 10 Downing St., the prime minister's official residence. "It could only say, it could not do. Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today enough of talking, it is time now to do."

And time is short. Labor has just over a week before it sets out its legislative program at the formal opening of parliament. Within six weeks, Blair faces an important European Union summit, his first test in an arena where his predecessor, John Major, was often isolated, and another summit of G-7 leaders in Denver.

Britain's future in Europe is expected to be a key issue in the next five years.

Labor adopted the defeated Conservative Party's wait-and-see policy on joining a single European currency. Internal squabbling over European integration badly divided the Tories and was a key factor in the



BRITISH ELECTIONS

party's trouncing at the polls.

The *Financial Times* reported that Blair has offered Sir David Simon, chairman of British Petroleum, the position of minister for Europe and a seat in the unelected House of Lords. Simon was not among yesterday morning's visitors.

British Petroleum said Simon was talking to Blair but nothing had been decided.

"He would very much like to be involved in the shaping of the UK's relationship with its European partners but also to continue as chairman of BP. He will be considering over the next few days if it is possible to do both of these things," a BP spokesman said, speaking anonymously.

Blair spent his first night as prime minister in his home in the Islington area of north London with his wife, Cherie Booth, and three young children. Booth got a rude awakening yesterday morning to the perils of being the prime minister's wife. When a policeman knocked, she opened the door in a short nightgown and suddenly realized that photographers across the street were snapping away. She quickly backed away behind the door, and a man delivering flowers went inside. He also brought in the morning papers.

Blair is the first prime minister to have young children since Labor's Ramsay MacDonald in the 1920s. The living quarters above the prime minister's official offices at 10 Downing are small, and a Downing Street spokesman said the Blairs had decided it was not really suitable for family living.

The Blairs are considering living next door at 11 Downing St., usually the home of the chancellor of the exchequer, which is more spacious, the spokesman said, but no decision has been made. Gordon Brown, the treasury chief, is a bachelor.

Major resigned as Conservative party leader as he stood outside 10 Downing St. for the last time. He'll remain an ordinary backbencher in a shrunken and divided party.

Conservatives began jockeying for the leadership although only former chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke has announced that he will be a candidate.

Former Tory cabinet minister Sir Norman Fowler, one of only 165 Conservatives to win seats in the new Parliament, said the party needs time to recover from the huge defeat and there was "no hurry" for leadership candidates to rush forward.

"Opposition and the demands of opposition are very difficult," he told BBC Radio 4. "You need a tough leader - someone who can do successful battle in the House of Commons twice a week and someone who can develop policy at the same time." Former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine, who suffered a heart attack in 1993, was hospitalized with angina pain. He announced that he would not be a candidate to replace Major as Conservative Party leader.

Blair's cabinet appointments included John Prescott, a blunt-speaking former ship's steward, as deputy prime minister. Economist Gordon Brown became chancellor of the exchequer, promising fiscal, if not political, conservatism. Other key appointments included Robin Cook as foreign and commonwealth secretary, Clare Short in charge of dispensing Britain's foreign aid as secretary for international development, Harriet Harman as social security secretary, Lord Irvine as Lord Chancellor, and Britain's first blind minister, David Blunkett as education secretary. Blair named five women to cabinet posts.

Netanyahu congratulates Blair

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a telegram to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Friday, congratulating him on his "stunning election victory."

"We seem to be at an historic point in which a new generation is assuming power in many countries," Netanyahu wrote. "I have no doubt that you will add great energy and vigorous leadership to the political life of Great Britain and Europe and that your stewardship will have a lasting impact on world affairs."

Jerusalem Post Staff

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day begins tonight

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day begins tonight with a state ceremony at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, to be attended by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other dignitaries. The ceremony, which begins at 8, will be televised on

Channels 1 and 2.

In an effort to further educate Israelis about the Holocaust, IDF soldiers will be entering the names of victims into the computers at Yad Vashem, the IDF Spokesman said.

The project, organized jointly by Yad Vashem and the Education Corps, is aimed at computerizing the names of all who perished in

the Holocaust, using the forms filled out by relatives and acquaintances over the years.

"The participation of soldiers in this national mission is bringing them closer to an awareness of the Holocaust and its significance and the IDF sees the project as an important educational endeavor," the spokesman said.

Bentsur: No terms to Syrian talks

Levy meets EU envoy today

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and news agencies

Israel has rejected a recent Syrian offer to renew peace talks, because it included as a precondition the government's agreeing to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, a senior official said yesterday.

Foreign Minister David Levy is to discuss ways of resuming the negotiations with Syria with European Union peace talks envoy Miguel Moratinos, who was to arrive from Damascus last night.

Syria recently proposed three formulas to resume talks, which were relayed to the government by Moratinos, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur revealed yesterday.

However, each proposal included a demand that Israel could not accept, and therefore the government rejected all three proposals, he said. Bentsur was speaking at a question-and-answer forum in Rehovot, where he was interviewed by former *Davar* editor Hannah Semer.

Bentsur, who is also to attend Levy's meeting with Moratinos today, said one of the Syrian proposals was based on Resolution 242, but included a demand for a detailed breakdown of the resolution according to the Syrian interpretation, i.e. an Israeli commitment for complete withdrawal from the Golan. Israel, of

course, rejected this demand, Bentsur said.

Bentsur said the final communiqué of the recent Malta Conference included a call by the 27 member states for negotiations between Syria and Israel to be resumed on the basis of the Madrid Conference. The announcement was formulated with the consensus of all the states at the conference, including Syria.

Bentsur pointed out that the announcement was in keeping with a proposal Levy made three months ago that was rejected at the time by the Syrians. He suggested this might provide an opening for a bridging formula that would enable the resumption of negotiations.

The possibility of resuming talks with Syria on the basis of the Madrid Conference is expected to be discussed by Levy, Bentsur, and Moratinos at their meeting today.

Under the Labor government, the sides appeared on the verge of a Golan-for-peace deal, but it was never finalized. The Netanyahu government opposes a complete Golan pullout.

Bentsur told Israel Radio yesterday that Israel is open to renewing the peace talks based on the Madrid model, which imposed no preconditions on either side.

Netanyahu participated in the Madrid Conference as deputy foreign minister.

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NEWS

in brief

Haredim try to block Rehov Bar-Ilan

Hundreds of haredim tried to block traffic on Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday, but they were forced off the Jerusalem thoroughfare by police. Several haredim also threw bottles onto the road. One man was arrested on suspicion he attacked a policeman. *Tim*

1 dead, 21 injured on roads

A foreign worker was killed and 21 people were injured — six seriously — in road accidents over the weekend. The man was killed late Friday night near the Lod interchange on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway when he tried to cross the road on his bicycle and was hit by a car. Earlier Friday, a four-car pile-up on Rehov Yigal Yadin in Jerusalem left 11 people injured, one of them seriously. Two women were seriously injured yesterday in a head-on collision near Ness Ziona. Eight people were hurt, three seriously, in three different accidents in the Sharon area. Last week, up to noon on Friday, 12 people were killed and 14 seriously injured in road accidents. *Tim*

Boy killed by shell in firing zone

A 14-year-old Beduin boy was killed when a shell he picked up in an IDF firing zone in the Tel Aviv area exploded. The boy's family had been looking for him since the morning, and found him dead at 2:30 p.m. Police arrived on the scene and took parts of the shell for laboratory analysis. *Tim*

Two Hebron stonethrowers lightly wounded

Several dozen Palestinian youths stoned IDF troops in the center of Hebron on Friday morning. Soldiers dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. Palestinian sources reported that two youths were lightly wounded in the exchange. *Tim*

Sanctions by gov't workers continue

Disruptions in 15 government ministries are to continue today, with workers refusing to receive the public, answer phones, or send mail and faxes. Interior Ministry workers will not issue passports or identity cards, and the Transport Ministry's Licensing Bureau will not give tests in driving theory or issue car registrations. The workers are protesting what they say is the Treasury's delay in putting through a wage increase. The Treasury insists that the workers are demanding contravenes their signed wage agreement. The Treasury is to decide today whether to take legal steps to force the workers to resume their regular duties. *Tim*

Egypt rejects US offer to deport Abdel-Rahman

The US offered to deport to Egypt Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a Moslem cleric jailed for plotting to blow up New York landmarks, but Cairo rejected the proposal, the London-based Al-Hayat reported yesterday. Abdel-Rahman, 58, was sentenced to life in prison in 1995 for conspiring to blow up landmarks, including the World Trade Center and the UN. Abdel-Rahman is widely believed to be the spiritual leader of the Islamic Group, a militant group fighting to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. *Reuters*

Ray Charles cancels Lebanon concerts

US singer Ray Charles canceled two summer concerts in Lebanon after the US State Department advised him against making the trip, the organizing committee said yesterday. The State Department cited its decade-old ban on Americans traveling to Lebanon, an official of the Beirut-based festival's organizing committee said. The committee received a letter Friday from Charles' agents in the US canceling the July 25-26 concerts in the summer resort of Beiteddine, 60 kilometers southeast of Beirut, the official said. *AP*

With great sorrow we announce the death of our beloved mother and grandmother

LUCIANA JARACH

The funeral will leave from Beit HaHesped, Givat Shaul Cemetery, Jerusalem, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at 2:30 p.m.

Her children: Mirella Bamberger, Federico and Etic Jarach, Marina Slev, Dina and Gaby Lehman, Renato and Judith Jarach Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Shiva at 20 Radak St., Rehavia, Jerusalem

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved

ALAN (ILAN) BARZEL

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at the Ramat Hasharon Cemetery at 4:30 p.m.

His wife: Monika Barzel (née Friedman)
His daughter: Miriam Rotman and her family
His son: Guy Barzel and wife, Orly
Families: Harel, Friedman, Rotman, Lavid

We sadly announce the death of our beloved

MIRA SANDOR

(née Hoffmann)
The funeral will take place today, Sunday, May 4, 1997, at 12:00, at the Brosh Gate, Kfar Samir. Please refrain from visiting. Edna and Dr. Shlomo Carmel and family

Thousands rally for state inquiry

Demonstrators demand investigation into Bar-On Affair

By URIEL HEILMAN

Thousands of people turned out for a mass rally at the Wohl Rose Garden opposite the Knesset last night, demanding the establishment of a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair.

Ray Elbaz, 21, one of the demonstration organizers, called upon "young and old, Right and Left, religious and secular, Sephardim and Ashkenazim" to unite in the pursuit of justice. Producer Yigal Goren, a former Israel Television reporter who worked with a group of young people to coordinate the event, said, "This event has significance for the entire political spectrum. We will step up the pressure; this is just the beginning."

Last night's demonstration was the culmination of an effort that began on April 22, when hundreds, including former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, gathered opposite the Knesset to demand a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On affair. Since then, small groups of protesters have been at the Wohl Rose Garden, holding a vigil 24 hours a day and soliciting signatures on a petition demanding the inquiry. Elbaz, who spearheaded the protest with Dani Zarzawsky, explained that every citizen should demand the commission of inquiry be set up to ensure the integrity of the nation's leaders.

"Netanyahu was chosen in a democratic way," said Elbaz, "but here things were done that were just not right."

"If they behave this way with regard to the appointment of the attorney-general, how will they make decisions tomorrow regarding Hebron, the economy, and other things?" said Orit Maron, who has been volunteering at the protest every day since it began. "As concerned youth, this frightens us."

Elbaz explained that recent events propelled him to action. "The Bar-On Affair was the red line for me; I was just seeing too much corruption in the government," he said. His frustration reached its breaking point when the prime minister responded as if the attorney-general's report had conclusively proved his innocence.

The protest, Elbaz said, ensures that "the prime minister won't sleep well at night. This should at least let him know that his nation is disgusted by him."

The day after the protest began, the volunteers' efforts were joined by Goren, who provided technical assistance to the campaign. By the morning after the initial

demonstration, Goren had arranged for a tent to be set up at the site, procured the necessary permits for the protest, set up a bank account for the thousands of shekels flowing in to the campaign, and got individuals and companies to supply the volunteers with cellular phones, stickers, posters, and food.

Since then, support for the protesters' demands have come from all ends of the political spectrum. While most of the youth coordinating the protest are affiliated with the Left, supporters have come from across the political spectrum, including Shas. Several MKs, including Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, and Yossi Sarid, have signed the petition, and the petition has also been circulating with the help of volunteers in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, Holon, and Ashdod, who set up protest booths in each of those cities. Some 70,000 signatures have been collected so far.

Elie Eidelman, a volunteer who has spent several hours every day at the protest site, said, "Even if the protest doesn't help now, at least it will help make integrity an issue in the next elections."

"Our task was to bring the issue to public awareness," said Elbaz. "Now it is in the hands of the citizens. This is the spark that should ignite the fire."

Sarah Honig adds: Labor leadership candidate MK Ephraim Sneh complained yesterday that he had been "ousted in a very violent, abusive manner from the Jerusalem demonstration called to back demands for a state inquiry commission into the Bar-On Affair."

Sneh said he was the first to begin circulating a petition calling for such a commission in stands he put up on Tel Aviv streets, and later sent a van around the country to collect more signatures. The sponsors of the Jerusalem petition, he claims, came after him.

Last night, Sneh recounts, he "came to the demonstration just as any ordinary citizen, which is my right. When TV interviewers approached, one of the organizers, Yigal Goren, strode forward menacingly and in an ugly manner tried to eject me, screaming that I am riding on his coat tails and that I am trying to steal headlines at his expense and lead the effort a political air."

"He blocked TV cameramen and even covered their lenses with his hands. As a TV journalist himself, he should have known better than to behave in this unseemly violent fashion."

Likud blasts Labor for wanting probe

By SARAH HONIG

The Likud charged last night that the campaign to establish a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair is nothing but "another hypocritical Labor-instigated attempt to bring down the government."

"This is not, as presented, an independent spontaneous move by politically unaffiliated citizens. This is a very political act organized and orchestrated by the Labor Party, which clutches at this as a last-ditch effort to bring down the government, not via the ballot box," the Likud party said in a statement, in response to the demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office last night.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who distanced herself from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu until the decision not to indict him, also said yesterday that "despite the pretense, it is very clear that the call for a state inquiry commission is a very political, partisan call. It constitutes a vote of no-confidence, if not contempt, in the decision of the state attorney and the attorney-general. However, after three months of an intensive and exhaustive police investigation, it is hard to imagine what an inquiry commission could unearth that the police did not."

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, however, continued his criticism of the government over the weekend.

Sharon urged that the government "draw up immediate, detailed blue prints of where it plans to go in the next moves of the Oslo process. We need to have clear goals and cannot ad lib. This government has already used up all of the credit it had at its disposal and even its supporters want to know where it is leading us."

Sharon reiterated his longstanding opposition to direct elections system and urged that the law be amended. "I say this not because of opposition to the prime minister but out of a deep-seated conviction and principles."

Meanwhile, Third Way MK Yehuda Harel said on Channel 1 television yesterday morning that "contrary to the impression which too much political chatter may lead, elections are not around the corner. From serious talks which I had in recent days with Labor leaders, I can say without equivocation that they are not really interested in advancing the elections."

Harel called into question "just how much of an opposition Labor is," and argued that Labor is too caught up in its internal warfare to engage in other battles.

This was disputed by Labor leadership candidate MK Ephraim Sneh, who said he was one of the Laborites with whom Harel met.

Just before he was turned away from last night's demonstration, test his attendance lend it too political an image, he told reporters that he had "very plainly asked Harel what it would take until The Third Way walked out of this government. It is unthinkable that a man who joined this government and who collaborates with it, should then attack Labor for supposedly not being committed enough to fight it. Harel is speaking an untruth."

Sneh and the other three Labor leadership candidates — frontrunner MK Ehud Barak, MK Yossi Beilin and MK Shlomo Ben-Ami — may hold a debate in an upcoming installment of Channel 2's *Meet the Press* program. This would be the only debate prior to the June 3 primary.



Israel, China discuss cooperation

Finance Minister Dan Meridor greets Chen Jinhua, the Chinese senior minister for social and economics planning, who arrived last week to discuss joint projects in agriculture, communications, medicine and chemical manufacturing. Chen invited Meridor to visit China in September.

PA bans sale of land through unauthorized agents

The Palestinian Authority said yesterday it had banned the sale of land through unauthorized agents in order to counter expansion of Jewish settlements.

The ban, affecting all of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, covers areas now beyond PA control, including eastern Jerusalem. "In some cases where Israelis build new settlements on Palestinian land, we discovered that Palestinian owners have sold their land to Arab or foreign dealers working for Israeli companies," a PA official told Reuters.

"To stop this, we are prohibiting the sales of land through [unauthorized] Arab or foreign dealers," he said of the decision taken at a PA cabinet meeting overnight.

PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said the PA would need to approve all land deals and all real estate agents.

"The leadership has ordered its security and judicial apparatus to see that the decision is implemented, and to punish anyone charged with [unauthorized] selling of land, whether directly or by facilitating the sale process, which is considered the greatest danger threatening Palestinian land," the PA statement said.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians ground to a halt and violence erupted after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the start of a Jewish housing project on Har Homa, in southern Jerusalem. (Reuters)

Palestinian lawyer arrested for criticizing PA legal system

By JON IMMANUEL

A lawyer working for the Palestinian Authority has been jailed in Gaza for writing an article about the Bar-On Affair that compared the PA legal system unfavorably to the Israeli system.

Jamil Salameh, who works at the Ministry of Planning, headed by Nabil Shaath, wrote the article for the Gaza Bar Association journal. But when he showed it to the journal's editors for publication, they passed it on to the public prosecutor, Khalid al-Qidrah, who ordered Salameh arrested. He was arrested last Saturday and is being held at the Gaza Central Prison.

It is the first time a writer in Gaza has been jailed by the PA for an unpublished article.

US report reinforces claim Swiss kept billions in looted Nazi gold

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A long-awaited US government report will state there is conclusive evidence that the Nazis sold Switzerland gold stolen from individual Holocaust victims, sources close to the State Department said on Friday.

The sources said the 11-agency report will also show that after the war, Switzerland failed to return billions of dollars worth of looted Nazi gold it received during the war.

The sources' comments were denounced by the US official preparing the report. Under Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, in a statement issued by the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, said the sources' comments were inaccurate.

The sources contacted by Reuters said they stood

by their account.

"The Reuters story is based on pure speculation, contains inaccuracies and should be given no credence," the statement by Eizenstat said.

Eizenstat did not specify what the inaccuracies were but he cautioned that in the coming days interested parties would attempt to put their own slant on the report.

The Swiss Embassy declined comment.

The more than 200-page report, based on 14 million pages of US government documents, was prepared under Eizenstat's direction. It is expected to be released on Wednesday, and the sources said it will be very harsh on the Swiss role in the war as bankers and even money-launderers for the Third Reich.

Arafat, Weizman due to meet

News agencies

President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat have agreed to meet, but a date has yet to be set, Israel Radio and a Palestinian Authority official said yesterday.

"Weizman asked for the meeting," said the PA official, who confirmed the Israel Radio report. "No date has been set for the meeting. We don't expect it to take place before the end of the week." He would not elaborate on the purpose of the meeting.

Weizman's director-general, Arye Shumer, later told Israel Radio that it was the PA that had requested the meeting.

"There are contacts on this issue and we are in contact with the prime minister and the Palestinian Authority in light of the request of the Palestinian Authority," Shumer said.

Israel Radio, quoting a senior PA official, said the meeting had been delayed for technical reasons but could take place this week.

Weizman has tried in the past to smooth relations between Israel and the PA that have been rocky since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office last June.

Weizman played a key role in mediating the last major breakdown between the sides when he invited Arafat to his home for a meeting last October.

Also yesterday, Arafat called on US President Bill Clinton and the world community to save the deteriorating peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

In a statement released early yesterday morning after a five-hour cabinet meeting in Ramallah, Arafat said Israel's "malicious" settlement of the West Bank and east Jerusalem is aimed at denying the Palestinians their own state.

"There is no way of getting out of this crisis without an international intervention," Arafat said in the statement.

North Korea slams US, South Korea

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea lashed out yesterday against the United States and South Korea as "peddling false rumors" about North Korea's refusal to negotiate about entering peace talks on a permanent settlement of the Korean War.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman told Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, that the United States and South Korea have erroneously accused North Korea of turning down a proposal for the talks.

The spokesman, who was not identified, also said North Korea cannot lay aside its fear that the United States will use food aid as "a political weapon."

North Korea is on the verge of massive famine after floods wiped out the harvest for the last two years. Red Cross officials from North and South Korea opened discussions yesterday in Beijing on emergency food aid — their first direct talks in nearly five years.

The separate discussion on the peace talks broke down last month when North Korea insisted on linking it to getting food aid and establishing diplomatic and economic relations with the United States.

KCNA reported yesterday that North Korea "adopted a very flexible position to agree to the proposed four-way talks though there were some problems." North Korea was "ready to continue negotiations on the four-way talks," KCNA said.

But it also said: "Judging from the problems raised during the joint briefing on the four-way talks and the reply briefing, it is evident that there is no confidence built for the four parties to meet right now, even if such talks may be held."

The meeting will also address severe food shortages in communist North Korea, which UN relief workers say is on the brink of catastrophic famine.

The US-South Korean proposal calls for North and South Korea to sit down to discuss a permanent peace, with the United States and China mediating. The Koreans never signed a formal peace treaty after the 1950-53 war.

Mandela waits for Mobutu, Kabila

By NICHOLAS KOTCH

ABOARD SAS OUTENIQUA, Congo, (Reuters) — South Africa's Nelson Mandela waited on a converted icebreaker yesterday for Zaire's ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel leader Laurent Kabila to join him for peace talks.

South African officials told reporters on the SAS Outeniqua, moored in Congo's port of Pointe Noire, that all obstacles to the on-off talks had been removed and that they should take place later yesterday.

But as the hours ticked by, Mobutu remained on land in Pointe Noire and Kabila remained in Angola's capital Luanda.

On the battlefield, Kabila's rebels drew closer to Kinshasa on several fronts, capturing Mobutu's birthplace and moving into Kenge just 200 km from the capital, witnesses and security sources said.

On the humanitarian front, the UN flew home more Rwandan Hutu refugees from rebel-held northeastern Zaire, taking the total repatriated in the airlift to 3,902, but torrential rain added to the woes of thousands stuck in makeshift camps.

"All the outstanding problems

have been resolved," South African deputy foreign minister Aziz Pahad told reporters on the SAS Outeniqua, moored in Congo's port of Pointe Noire.

"Both parties are now satisfied that all the necessary arrangements have been made and sometime this afternoon the meeting will take place," he said.

Kabila, who remained in Angola's capital Luanda while Mobutu and Mobutu sailed into international waters to meet him, criticised security and negotiating arrangements.

"If we wanted to we could win this militarily in two weeks.

Suggestions that I am stalling for time are ridiculous. I am interested in finding a peaceful solution to the problem," he told a news conference in Luanda.

A report that he had left Luanda yesterday morning for the talks was premature, South African and Angolan officials said.

South African officials said security on the Outeniqua would be tightened to meet Kabila's concerns, with particular attention to Mobutu's bodyguards and the size of delegations.

"We have got sufficient security measures," Pahad said.

Mobutu boarded the Russian-built Outeniqua in Pointe Noire

with great difficulty on Friday. Unable to climb 31 steep steps, he was driven on board five hours late up a make-shift ramp.

Aged 66 and suffering from prostate cancer, he is one of Africa's most enduring strongmen, backed during the Cold War by the United States as a bulwark against Soviet communism.

He has dominated Zaire since seizing power in 1965 but his illness and the whirlwind rebel offensive have weakened his grip on the former Belgian colony.

Kabila's rebels, who took up arms in October, now control around three quarters of Zaire.

Mobutu aides say talks will focus on a peaceful transition with elections open to all. They reject suggestions that the meeting is a face-saver to allow him to stand down with dignity.

Kabila, 56, says Mobutu must go and has refused to declare a truce for the talks. "There can be no ceasefire or indeed elections in this country until Mobutu and all he represents is removed and thrown away," he said this week.

The United States, France, Belgium and Britain have troops across the Zaire River in Congo's capital Brazzaville to evacuate their nationals from Kinshasa if need be.

Guatemala rebels turn in last of weapons

SACOL, Guatemala (Reuters) — After 36 years of war, former rebels shouted triumph and sobbed good-byes as they laid down the last of their weapons late on Friday in the Sacol disarmament camp in Guatemala's northern jungle.

More than 3,000 rebels have been living in eight different camps for three months, disarming under terms of a peace treaty signed on

Dec. 29 between the government and the leftist Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit.

"This is the definitive end of the war. They can join their loved ones and live as citizens with full rights and obligations," Raquel Zelaya, who heads a government-civilian commission to oversee compliance with the accords, said during a closing ceremony at Sacol

camp. The December treaty, which took five rocky years to negotiate, marked the end of one of Latin America's most drawn-out wars.

The guerrillas promised to give up their weapons in the peace accords. The army has pledged to cut its ranks by one third, give up its police role and to shut down several rural bases.

Transvestite hooker arrested after taking ride with Eddie Murphy

Actor says 'I was just being a nice guy'

Former top spy jailed

LONDON (AP) — A distinguished former member of the British secret service was jailed for one year Friday, after a police sting operation caught him trying to illegally sell a powerful pistol and ammunition.

Christopher Hale, 57, was one of the MI6's leading inventors of electronic anti-terrorist devices.

Hale was arrested after police conducted an investigation in which they sent a "shopping list" of illegal arms to suspected underworld figures.

The list made its way to a former anti-terrorist commando, Robert Scott, who got Hale involved in an effort to provide a gun for someone who turned out to be an undercover policeman.

Scott, who served as a stunt man double for actor Sylvester Stallone in the 1993 film *Cliffhanger*, was sentenced last month to three years in prison for his role.

Judge Derek Inman of London's Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court told Hale that the revolver he handed over was a "potential killer." Hale's conviction marred what had been an excellent career in British intelligence.

In 1995, Hale brought his Blacklight "see in the dark" camera system to Oklahoma to search for bomb survivors.

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Eddie Murphy said he was just trying to be a nice guy when he picked up a cross-dressing male prostitute as undercover sheriff's deputies looked on.

Murphy was pulled over minutes after the man got into his car Friday morning. The prostitute was arrested on a warrant, but authorities said Murphy had not broken any law.

"It's not the first hooker that I've helped out... I've seen hookers on corners and I'll pull over and they'll go, 'Oh, you're Eddie Murphy, oh my God, and I'll empty my wallet out to help,'"

Murphy told television's *Entertainment Tonight*. "I'm just being a nice guy," he said.

Murphy was followed for about 3 km by an unmarked sheriff's car that was working in a "prostitution abatement zone," said Lt. Mike Ford, a sheriff's spokesman.

Atsone Seull, 20, of Los Angeles was arrested on a prior warrant for prostitution and jailed in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

Marty Singer, Murphy's lawyer, said Murphy did not know that the prostitute was a transvestite.

Murphy said he gave the man a lecture about the dangers of working the streets before letting him into his vehicle.



Eddie Murphy

The 36-year-old *Beverly Hills Cop* actor said he was shocked at all the fuss, in part "because I wasn't arrested."

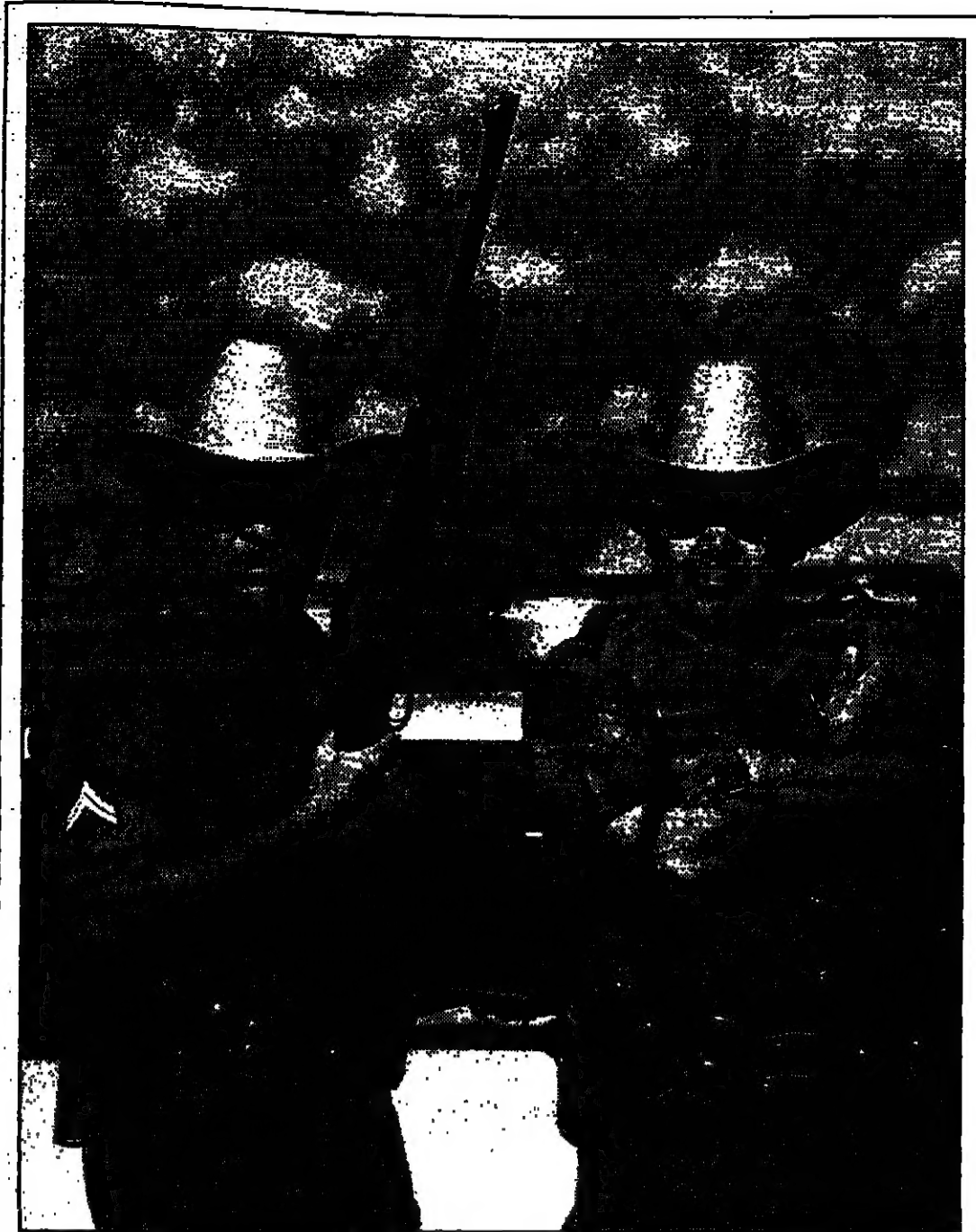
"It wasn't like we drove to some dark spot to do something,"

Murphy said. "I love my wife and I'm not gay. I'm married with three children. I'm not going to do anything to jeopardize my health."

Murphy vaulted into stardom in the 1980s with a series of hit films, including *48 Hours* and the first two *Beverly Hills Cop* movies in which he played a wise-cracking detective.

Last year's *The Nutty Professor* was also a hit, and Murphy is receiving a reported \$17 million for an upcoming remake of *Dr. Doolittle*.

In 1995, actor Hugh Grant pleaded no contest to lewd conduct with prostitute Estelle Thompson, also known as Divine Brown. Grant was fined \$1,180 and placed on two years' probation.



Texas State Troopers man a road block leading to the Davis Mountain resort Friday, as the standoff with the anti-government group the 'Republic of Texas' continues. (Reuters)

Wife of rebel leader leaves Texas hideout

FORT DAVIS, Texas (AP) — The wife of the man leading a band of US secessionists in a week-long standoff left their mountain hideout yesterday, giving in to the pleas of her daughters.

Lauren McLaren became the second person to leave the group's so-called embassy in the Davis Mountains in two days.

"I just want to tell my family back home she's out, she's safe and she's in good hands," said J.C. Mason, Mrs. McLaren's brother.

"We're delighted that Mrs. McLaren has decided to come out for her personal safety," said Lauren Chemow, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety. "There are no charges against her." Mrs. McLaren's husband, Richard, the self-styled ambassador of the Republic of Texas, and four followers were believed to still be holed up.

"We're not sure that other people might not want to come out," Ms. Chemow said. "That's why we're moving slowly. We're willing to wait as long as things are progressing." State officials

insist that the group must surrender to face charges.

McLaren and four followers are charged with kidnapping and other offenses for a hostage-taking that started the siege Sunday. The hostages, both area residents, were freed in exchange for group member Robert Scheidt, who had been jailed on weapons charges.

Scheidt returned to the "embassy" but surrendered Friday. He faces felony charges of engaging in organized crime.

The Republic of Texas, which has at least three factions, claims the state was illegally annexed by the United States and wants a statewide referendum on independence.

On Friday, two of Mrs. McLaren's daughters — 33-year-old Lisa Rutledge and 29-year-old Julie Hopkins, both of Fort Worth — begged their mother to come out.

"Please don't make us bring your 2 1/2-year-old grandson to your funeral," Ms. Hopkins sobbed. "Please, please don't let our mom die."

Eritrea expels UN refugee agency

ASMARA (Reuters) — The Red Sea state of Eritrea has given the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR four days to leave the country, apparently because of a row over the repatriation of Eritrean refugees in exile.

Eritrean state television said on Friday night that UNHCR had 48 hours to leave the country. The agency had circulated documents without authority, it added without elaboration.

Aid agency sources said later that Eritrea had extended the period to 96 hours, giving UNHCR a respite until Tuesday.

The UNHCR chief of mission in Eritrea, Arnulf Torbjornsen, declined to comment. The agency said it would comment after talks over the weekend.

The UNHCR director of operations for central, east and west Africa, Albert-Alain Peters, visiting Eritrea at the end of April, said the Eritreans were dragging their

feet on repatriation and so he had raised the possibility of UNHCR abandoning responsibility for the refugees.

UNHCR figures say 145,000 Eritreans remain in refugee camps in Sudan, five years after the country became independent. In addition, there is an Eritrean urban population in Sudan.

The U.N. agency wants to bring them all home but bad relations between Sudan and Eritrea have helped to hold up the repatriation program.

"Two years ago, when the repatriation operation was halted, we had 25,000 people who had come back in the pilot program."

The government says 127,000 people have come back spontaneously since then, Peters said.

In December 1996 Eritrea broke a pledge to hold a technical meeting with the Sudanese government on the repatriation.

Peters said: "We are totally

behind them (the Eritrean government), but we would be more behind them if they would take part in a repatriation program. They achieved independence five years ago. But still most refugees are outside the borders."

They have no more reason to be in exile. "We said (to the Eritreans) that we are a bit worried about the pace. It is time for the refugees to come back, so that the UNHCR can pull out," he added.

Under the "secession clause" evoked by Peters in his talks, all Eritreans presently holding refugee status anywhere in the world will lose that status. They will no longer be able to approach any government as refugees.

"The secession clause... can be used when there is no further reason for refugees to fear persecution or other, when the refugees cease to require need as refugees," Peters said.

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BACKGROUND

Meet Tony Blair

By PAUL CARREL

LONDON (Reuters) - Tony Blair, Britain's new prime minister, traded on some diverse experiences to revamp the Labor Party and lead it to power.

Born to working-class parents on May 6, 1953, Blair profited from his father's hard work and was sent to private school and to Oxford University where he studied law. He was a lawyer before entering parliament in 1983.

As he told the Labor Party conference last October: "I wasn't born Labor, I became Labor." In an unscripted departure from that conference speech, he told how his world "fell apart" when he awoke one morning just after his 11th birthday to find his father, Leo, had suffered a severe stroke at the age of 40.

"It taught me something: it taught me the value of the family, because my mother worked for three years to help him talk and walk again," Blair said.

"My father was a very ambitious man, he was successful, he was a go-getter," said Blair, describing the same attributes which have propelled him to 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's residence.

Blair's father abandoned his socialist roots and stood as a Conservative for parliament. Only when Blair scrapped the Labor Party constitution's Clause Four, which specified that the state should own the means of production, did he rejoin Labor.

If his parents taught him the virtues of hard work, Blair occasionally strayed from the path. At Oxford University he drifted, lacking purpose and direction, until he met Peter Thomson, then a 36-year-old Australian theology student.

"Beyond getting a degree, I don't think he really knew what he was doing at Oxford," Thomson said.

Blair's mother Hazel died of cancer when he was 21. The young student realized that life was tenuous and he had to channel his energies if he was to achieve anything.

Thomson introduced him to his own radical brand of Christianity. During late night conversations in "Thommo's room," the down-to-earth Australian opened his eyes to a religious faith he could relate to.

Thomson's influence has left its mark on Blair's politics. As a mutual friend commented: "You can hear Thomson in Blair's speeches."

Blair met his wife Cherie when they were both trainee lawyers working for Labor grandee Lord Irvine and developed a relaxed professional relationship.

There was no hint of romance until they played a game at an office Christmas party in 1977 which involved passing a balloon to one another through their legs. "I began to see her differently," said Blair. "I was immensely attracted to her, not just her looks but her personality." The relationship blossomed and it became harder for them to conceal their emotions at work.

Finally at a clients' meeting they could not keep their eyes off each other and Irvine grew irritated until, Blair said, he snapped at him: "For goodness sake take the girl to the pub or something." The Blairs celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary on March 29, a testament to the success of a relationship built on friendship and team-work.

Blair's romantic streak is intact. "I'm still excited by Cherie," he said. "I adore her still and am deeply in love with her." The Blairs have managed to juggle the demands of their dynamic careers with the domestic pressures of bringing up a young family. They have three children.



Britain's new Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown leaves Downing Street on Friday.

(Reuters)

Seeds of Major's rout sown long ago

LONDON (Reuters) - Announcing his departure as Conservative Party leader on Friday, John Major seemed baffled as to why the British people had voted his government out of office the day before.

"The economy is booming, interest rates are low and inflation is low and unemployment is falling," he said, taking his leave outside the prime minister's Downing Street residence.

Labor had held a huge opinion poll lead for months before Major called the election on March 17, hoping the longest campaign in living memory would wear his opponents down.

But the tactic failed lamentably, and all the pundits agree that by then it was probably too late. The three decisive moments came long before Major and Labor leader Tony Blair set out on the campaign trail.

The first came in September 1992, just five months after the Conservatives had won a surprise election victory.

As speculators gambled against sterling, Major and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont battled to keep the pound in Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

But although they spent 20 billion pounds (\$32 billion) to defend sterling and pushed interest rates briefly up to 15 percent, the pound crashed out, dealing a fatal blow to the Conservatives' image as guardians of the economy.

The second crucial moment came in April 1995, when Blair won overwhelming backing to scrap Labor's traditional, if little-honored, commitment to public ownership of the means of production in a symbolic break with the party's socialist past.

The final nail in the Conservatives' electoral coffin was hammered in six months ago, when Blair's economics spokesman Gordon Brown set out his tax and spending policies.

Brown was accused of voluntarily jettisoning an economic strategy he promised to hold to the Conservatives' spending plans and



John Major

(Reuters)

pledged no increase in income tax rates. But he had effectively stopped the Conservatives from using tax as a weapon against Labor as they had done so successfully in 1992.

Conservative splits over Europe and a string of scandals had pushed Labor's poll lead to 36 points.

Major was convinced he could eat into that in the campaign, but no

Final results

LONDON (Reuters) - Following is a final breakdown of the number of parliamentary seats each party won:

Conservatives	165 (165 held, 178 lost)
Labor	419 (273 held, 146 gained)
Liberal Democrats	46 (18 held, 30 gained, 2 lost)
Others	29 (21 held, 8 gained, 4 lost)
Average swing to Labor from Conservatives	10.2 percent
Majority for Labor - 179	
Share of the vote	
Labor	45%
Conservatives	31%
Liberal Democrats	17%

sooner had he named election day than sleaze reappeared.

Former minister Tim Smith quit as a candidate in a row over cash payments he had received from the owner of London's up-market Harrods store Mohamed Al Fayed, to stand in parliament.

Smith fell on his sword in an attempt to bury the issue, but another former minister involved in the row, Neil Hamilton, refused to stand down, protesting his innocence.

With the approval of Labor and the Liberal Democrats, who withdrew their candidates, former BBC war reporter Martin Bell stood against Hamilton as an anti-sleaze candidate, ensuring the issue was placed even more prominently in the public eye.

In desperation, Major took over the election campaign. He scrapped planned advertisements and delivered personal broadcasts instead, hoping his reputation for honesty and decency would count.

But his hands-on approach merely stirred controversy about the campaign's direction. Advertisements were cancelled, causing bad blood at Conservative headquarters and undermining morale even further.

On April 18, the Conservatives launched a poster showing Tony Blair as a ventriloquist's dummy sitting on the knee of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The aim was to show Blair as too inexperienced a negotiator to defend Britain's interests.

Labor laughed it off as a sign of panic and, by the day after the election, it was the Conservatives' own campaign of fear that had backfired, with a claim that the Conservatives would abolish the state pension.

It was the final blow. As momentum built, Blair's campaign became increasingly tense and emotional. Major's last public appearance was a tearful speech on the night of the election.

On April 19, the pro-European Conservative member of parliament Edward Carmo said the election was his seat in a landslide and also the blame at Major's door.

The result for the subsequent

EU welcomes Labor victory

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Britain's European partners yesterday welcomed the Labor Party's landslide general election victory and expressed hope a new government under Tony Blair would be an easier partner in European integration.

Farther afield, President Clinton congratulated Labor Party leader Tony Blair on his party's victory while Asian states did the same. There was little impact in Hong Kong, due to revert to Chinese sovereignty in less than two months.

White House spokesman David Johnson said Clinton called Blair in the early hours of Friday to congratulate him on his victory.

Few tears were shed across the EU over John Major's thumping defeat, but the other 14 nations in the group were unsure whether Blair's arrival would relax Britain's prickly attitude to key issues of sovereignty.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking in Brussels during an Asian tour, said the poll showed Britons did not like anti-European polemics, adding anti-EU policies could not win votes anywhere.

German Social Democrats (SPD), out of office for almost as long as the British Labor Party, hailed Blair's win as the start of a trend they hope will return them to power in a federal parliamentary election next year after 16 years in opposition.

"In 73 weeks we'll do exactly the same. Congratulations Tony Blair!" a billboard outside SPD headquarters proclaimed.

But Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), noting the SPD had not yet named its chal-

lenger to Kohl, promptly asked who was the "Tony Blair of the SPD."

German editorial writers were scathing about the defeated Conservatives, whose Euroskeptical campaign, with its anti-German overtones, offended sensitivities of their readers.

In France, which is caught in the throes of campaigning for its own two-stage parliamentary election on May 25 and June 1, President Jacques Chirac said in a message to Blair that he would be happy to meet him soon in the French capital. The invitation was informal and no dates were mentioned.

Socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin sent Blair a brief congratulatory message saying he "rejoiced the British people had changed majority in order to change their future." The campaign slogan of France's Socialists in the country's current general election campaign is "Let's change the future."

French European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier said his country's opposition Socialists had yet to understand that their British counterparts had won the election because they had dropped "outmoded precepts" about state control of the economy.

In Amsterdam, a Dutch government press statement said Prime Minister Wim Kok had "congratulated Blair in a telegram and expressed the hope that the new British government will contribute to a positive result at the (EU's) Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in Amsterdam in June."

In Brussels, EU diplomats said Labor

could have an immediate impact at an IGC preparatory meeting tomorrow expected to be the last before the Dutch EU presidency puts forward a draft treaty ahead of the Amsterdam summit.

The IGC, due to complete its revision of the Maastricht Treaty on European union by mid-June, and streamline the bloc's institutions ahead of an ambitious eastward expansion, was anathema to the Conservatives, who feared federalism and muttered darkly about the threat to the nation-state.

EU Commission president Jacques Santer pointed out in a telegram of congratulations to Blair that Britain would take over the presidency of the EU in the first half of next year.

"Never more than now has the European Union needed strong British commitment with its unique combination of pragmatism and efficiency," his telegram said.

Spain's conservative government said it would continue to enjoy friendly relations with Britain following Labor's landslide victory, but that Gibraltar would remain a sticking point.

"We shall continue with those good relations, and naturally the question of Gibraltar, which is an obstacle in that excellent relationship, for Spain, will continue as it was," Foreign Minister Abel Matutes told Spanish national radio.

Gibraltar has been an irritant in relations between Britain and Spain for many years. Spain insists that Britain hand back the colony which it seized almost 300 years ago.

Scotland and Wales to get their own assemblies

LONDON (AP) - Under Britain's new Labor government, Scotland and Wales are to get their own assemblies - a move the defeated Conservatives warn is the first step toward shattering the United Kingdom.

For now, though, the Conservatives are shattered. They lost their remaining seats in Scotland and Wales, as well as their leadership position, in the election.

"It was like being hit by a tidal wave," said defeated Welsh Conservative Walter Saverby.

Scottish Labor law maker George Robertson said the election had demonstrated the sheer determination of the people of Scotland to make a change in the government

of the country. In Britain's last national election, in 1992, the Tories won 11 of 72 seats in Scotland and 6 of 38 in Wales.

The Labor landslide that swept Tony Blair into No. 10 Downing St gave the party over 75 percent of the seats in both Scotland and Wales - and a clear mandate to go ahead with the assemblies.

Labor, which won 56 of the 72 Scottish seats, has promised to give a 24-member Scottish parliament sole authority over education, health and legal affairs.

In addition, the 5 million Scots will get to vote this fall on whether the Scottish parliament gets tax-raising powers.

During the campaign, the Conservatives argued the idea of

a "Tartan Tax," which would be added to the taxes Scots already pay.

Even though they didn't win a seat, the Tories did get 500,000 votes, and defeated Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth said they won't give up.

Forsyth, one of seven Conservative Cabinet ministers to lose their seats, said the Scottish people "would come to know the price of Labor's failure to think through devolution plans properly." He also announced he was bowing out of politics.

The Scottish National Party, which advocates independence, took 22 percent of the vote in Scotland and doubled its delegation in the House of Commons to

six. In Wales, where Labor won 34 of the 40 seats, party spokesman Ron Davies promised that devolution would be a key issue.

"Labor offered a very clear set of commitments and with this marvelous endorsement we have had, we'll be in a very strong position to deliver," Davies said.

Unlike Scotland, Wales doesn't have separate legal and school systems from England's and it will get a less powerful assembly.

Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, said the Welsh expect Labor to deliver on devolution. The party called on Labor to issue a policy paper within a month outlining their plans for an assembly.

Record number of women elected to parliament

LONDON (Reuters) - A record number of women will take up seats in the "Moshers of Parliament" after the Labor Party made its best ever showing in Britain's general election.

As results trickled in, the number of female members of parliament (MPs) looked set to double from 62 to about 120, although Westminster will remain overwhelmingly male.

"I'm pleased that there will be a real mix of MPs, with more women and younger Members of Parliament," said Claire Ward, who at 24 became the youngest member of the current intake.

Twin sisters Angela and Maria Eagle were also swept to Westminster on the tidal wave of support for Labor, becoming both the first twins and the first sisters to enter parliament.

Nearly 400 women had run for parliament's 659 seats in Thursday's election and their one-in-four success rate means the magic 100 mark will be broken for

the first time.

"It will be important that a number of women are all entering at the same time. If there is a huge chunk of women all new together, it will be easier to back each other up," said analyst MaryAnn Stephenson of the Fawcett Society.

Labor, on course for a majority of close to 180 seats, had 101 of the 1997 intake, with the Conservatives, traditionally favoured by women voters, supplying 12. Others came from the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats.

Before Thursday's election, women made up just 9.2 percent of the House of Commons and analysts said the scale of the new influx should finally make a difference to the way business is conducted at Westminster.

Currently, the corridors of power resemble a boys' school or a gentlemen's club. Women's toilets are notoriously hard to find. There is a rifle range and 11 bars, but no creche.

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BENZION MILLER, Tel Aviv Office Manager

The change Britain deserves

"Time for a change" is one thing, but the scale of Britain's Labor Party election victory has left commentators worldwide gasping for superlatives to describe it. The once mighty party of "Iron Lady" Margaret Thatcher lies in ruins. The victory undoubtedly belongs first to Prime Minister Tony Blair and the flawless, hitch-free election campaign he masterminded for his New Labor.

But the face of John Major, still frozen in disbelief, tells another story – not just the victory of his brilliant young opponent, but the angry, crushing fury that the British voters heaped on the Conservatives. Not since they threw out their hero Winston Churchill in the first election after he led them to victory over the Nazis have the British so astounded foreign observers. The British are traditionally conservative voters (with a small "c"), with little taste for revolution, upheaval or the unseemly passions of their continental neighbors. In this election – and in the long months of pro-Labor opinion polls that preceded it – the electorate has shown the Conservatives that they had sunk beneath contempt.

That was all the more surprising for, despite his somewhat gray political image, John Major has always been respected as a good and decent man, an honest self-made person who first had to claw his way from a deprived background into the middle classes and then made it all the way to 10 Downing Street. Major probably would have been unsurprised by a more "normal" defeat fueled by the "time for a change" theme. But he was totally bewildered by the size of the rout, especially since, as he noted, the economy is in good shape, interest rates and inflation are both low, and unemployment is going steadily down.

That sort of bewilderment bedevils far too many politicians who fail to comprehend that they are losing touch with the mood of the very people they once so easily persuaded to vote for them. In any democracy, a party that holds its grip on power too long seems unable to escape the arrogance of power. This may be the same Conservative Party that Thatcher so triumphantly led into battle against Argentina and against a dying domestic economy – but it is also the party that has been regarding the public as fools for most of its last term. Too many Conservatives have been exposed as sleazy and dishonest, too many more of them have lost touch with the changing opinions of their voters.

In the most astounding example of such misjudgment, the Tories first believed the electorate had no interest in European Union matters and then, when they discovered on the nation's doorsteps that it was very much an election issue, the party assumed that an anti-Europe stand would pull in the votes. If the British voters are not as dumb as the Conservative Central Office seemed to think – neither are they as xenophobic.

But the greatest anger undoubtedly was

reserved for the sleazy goings-on that dogged the party right up to election day and left the Conservatives to try and promote Major's own good character as an campaign asset. The proof of how important the sleaze issue had become was demonstrated by BBC reporter Martin Bell, who became so disgusted that he stood against the powerful Neil Hamilton, who refused to resign over accusations of accepting payment for parliamentary questions. Bell, standing only on an "anti-sleaze" platform, easily overturned Hamilton's huge majority. It proved a miniature morality tale reflecting the whole election.

Blair's huge parliamentary majority probably means that the Conservatives would have to regroup and rebuild to do to Labor what has been done to them by next election time. At this juncture, it seems most unlikely, so if Blair proves as efficient at running the country as at running his party, this is probably a two-term government.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of a remarkable election has been the wiping out of the Conservatives in two of the four countries making up Britain – Scotland and Wales – where they won no seats at all. There could hardly be a more startling mandate for Blair's plan to devolve power to local Scottish and Welsh assemblies. The only region that delivered the tired old clichés of previous elections remained Northern Ireland. This province has buried many a British political career and if Blair's new ideas can turn around any aspect of this festering problem, he will truly make his mark on British history.

One question that some commentators are asking is whether Labor's majority is too big for comfort. They say the essence of British democracy has always been the role of the loyal opposition in keeping the governing party from straying too far, too quickly from the norms of political power. This may be so, but some of Britain's great advances were made when a party had a comfortable enough majority to forge ahead without fear of being halted. The post-war Labor government constructed Britain's famed national health service, Thatcher with her 1983 majority of 140-plus overhauled the economy and launched her great privatization and free-markets drive. These precedents, and his huge majority, mean that Blair can afford to be as dynamic in overhauling the country as he has been in overhauling his own tired old party and turning it into a lean winning machine.

One exciting prospect for the new government is that it may at last be able to carve out a place of real influence for Britain in Europe. Under the Euro-skeptical Conservatives, Britain has been marginalized at a crucial time in the development of the EU. The election clearly demonstrated – much to almost everyone's surprise – that Europe-bashing is no longer a vote-winner in modern Britain. That alone made it time for a change, and for a new leader to chart a new course. The new Britain of the '90s may at last have got the government it deserves.

CAPTAIN, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?



The Armenian genocide

Who says things don't change – and certainly never for the better?

A week ago Saturday night, Channel 1's "News Around the World" was devoted nearly entirely to the theme of genocide in the modern world. A good part of the program, which was prepared and presented by Ya'acov Ahimeir, recently returned from a stint as Channel 1's correspondent in Washington, focused on the Armenian genocide of 1915, whose formal memorial date, April 24, comes out so close to our own Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

On that date, close to a year into World War I, in which the Ottoman Empire was allied with the Kaiser's Germany, several thousand of the intellectual, social, and business elites of the Armenian minority in the Ottoman capital, Constantinople, were rounded up and force-marched into detention by the Ottoman authorities. That proved to be the beginning of the Armenian genocide, in which in the ensuing 18 months, about 1.5 million Armenians – at the time one-third of the Armenian people – were annihilated.

So what has changed? Over the past few years, several attempts to broadcast some relatively tame documentaries about that dismal part of 20th-century Middle Eastern history were quashed in response to pressure from the Foreign Ministry, responding to protests from the Turkish government.

Already 15 years ago, such political pressure was successful in banning a relatively innocuous Israel TV documentary on the population of the Armenian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. Years later, the Israeli Embassy in Washington used its influence with the US government and with the American Jewish community to prevent Washington from officially recognizing the Armenian tragedy, as it had earlier recognized the Jewish Holocaust.

Ahimeir told me that before he left for Washington four years ago, he had managed to air a relatively short reference to the Armenian genocide on Channel 1's news. Several weeks later, he was shown a thick file by then deputy foreign minister Yossi Beilin which contained protests against that broadcast from members of Jewish community in Turkey. The Turkish Embassy had

also lodged a formal protest.

This time, Ahimeir told me, there has been not a peep of protest in response to his much more detailed treatment of the 1915 Armenian tragedy.

ONE of the most persuasive expressions of the connection between the Jewish and Armenian genocides hangs on the walls of

If we want others to care about what happened to us, we must sympathize with the tragedies of others

the Holocaust Museum in Washington. It is a quote from Adolf Hitler in 1939: "Who today remembers the massacre of the Armenian people?"

Hitler's purpose was to reassure his generals and other German officials who were somewhat uneasy over the international repercussions to the planned mass killing of Jews and other "sub-humans" in those parts of Eastern Europe that Nazi Germany was about to conquer. He was arguing that just as that mass murder had been accepted by the "civilized" world, so would it shrug off the mass killing of Jews.

The official objections to dealing openly with this issue on TV and in the schools stem from two sources: sensitivity to the developing strategic relations with Turkey, and the interest of Yad Vashem in playing down any competing historical phenomena which could possibly detract from the uniqueness of the Holocaust.

In regard to the latter, it is interesting to note that the academic expert interviewed by Ahimeir on the Armenian genocide was Prof. Yehuda Bauer, who is the head of Yad Vashem's academic advisory council. So maybe things are changing.

The Turks are indeed sensitive to any mention of this shameful aspect of their recent past. There is also no question that our developing strategic relations with Turkey are of supreme importance. We must tell the Turks that

our political and strategic relations with today's Germany, the successor to Hitler's Third Reich, have been no less important to us over the past 40 years. That has never stopped us from reminding the Germans of their responsibility for the Holocaust.

The German analogy is apt. In the ongoing struggle for the soul of modern Turkey, the modernists who are determined to adhere to Kemal Ataturk's legacy against the challenges from their own Moslem fundamentalists, are bent on Turkey's being accepted into the European Community. There is very deep opposition in Europe to Turkey's inclusion.

Learning how to openly admit historic responsibility for the Armenian genocide, which was committed by a previous despotic Turkish regime over 80 years ago, could prove to be a major argument in support of modern Turkey's "Europeanness."

The demand to perceive and teach the Holocaust as a unique occurrence in human history raises even more serious problems. It pits an age-old Jewish tendency to view hatred for the Jews as a *sui generis* phenomenon, and thus to see the Holocaust as the culmination of Jewish history in which the world has always been and will always be against us, against a more universalistic perception of the Holocaust as the most extreme expression of a tendency to genocide in our century.

The debate between these two approaches is intellectually legitimate. But preserving the memory of the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned from it is not primarily an intellectual exercise.

If we have demanded, and successfully so, that the world community preserve the memory of our tragedy, of our Holocaust, we must enter that arena of human conscience with clean hands. If we want others to care for what happened to us, we must show that we care for the tragedies of others.

This means sensitizing ourselves by means of the media, and our children through what we teach them in our schools, to the modern history of human suffering. Ya'acov Ahimeir's program on the Armenian genocide was welcome evidence of change in that direction.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Melting pot

GWYNNE DYER

Just under three-quarters of the present American population (73.1 percent) is classified as "non-Hispanic white" by the US Census Bureau. But within 50 years, it predicts, white Americans will be barely half the population (52.8%). Some 13.6% of Americans will be black (about the same as now), Asians will double to 8.2%, and most of the rest will be "Hispanic."

The bureau is almost certainly wrong. The man who has it right is Tiger Woods, the 21-year-old golfer who electrified the US by winning the Masters tournament – and then outraged practically everybody by announcing on the Oprah Winfrey show that he does not see himself as "black," but as "Cablinasian."

It's a word that describes what may be the largest American "race" by 2050: a mixed-race group in various shades of light brown that combines the genetic heritage of most major groups on the planet. Canada promises to be an even more comprehensive mixture, and Australia and Britain are moving in the same direction.

Woods made the word "Cablinasian" up because he had no word to describe himself. His father had one white, one native Indian and two black grandparents, and his mother was half Chinese, half Thai. "Growing up, I came up with this name – I'm a Cablinasian," Woods explained – a mix of Caucasian, black, Indian, and Asian.

Old racial barriers have

dropped, and racial intermarriage has taken off.

In Britain, a stunning 30% of people of West Indian origin under the age of 30 who are married or in a long-term relationship have a white partner. And public opinion supports the change: Well over two-thirds of Britons strongly disapproved of mixed marriages as recently as 1958, while now just over a quarter would object even if close relatives were involved.

The rate of intermarriage is lower among British Asians, maybe because most of them are

Golf champion Tiger Woods represents a new breed

Moslems, Hindus or Sikhs for whom religious differences are an extra barrier to intermarriage. But just go into the schools in big British cities and you can see the scale of the ethnic mixing that is happening – and this is in a country with only 7% foreign-born in its population.

Only 4% of US marriages are inter-racial, but that bald figure conceals a huge generational shift. In the '40s and '50s, less than 2% of black men married white women. In the past decade, the figure has soared to nearly 10%. And other non-white Americans, who do not suffer the special prejudice that weighs on African-American descendants of former slaves, are now "marrying out" at a staggering rate.

THERE are many previous examples of widespread racial mixing. Most people in northern India are descended from long-ago unions between Aryan (white) invaders and the darker previous inhabitants.

Many West Indian "blacks" (and most American "blacks") actually carry the genes of former slave-owners as well as former slaves.

In South Africa there is a whole people, the Coloureds, who come from the mixing of Europeans, "Malays" (actually Indonesians), the Bushman/Hottentot original inhabitants, and black Africans. The caste system in India probably arose as a strategy for combating the racial mixing that was undermining the conquerors' cohesiveness and power.

But the current phenomenon is different because the new inter-racial links are voluntary and equal. The most significant bit of data about the new intermarriage is this: White American women who have served in the US armed forces are seven times more likely to marry black American males than civilian white women.

In the US armed forces, almost uniquely in American society, a very large minority of blacks lives and works alongside other races in a genuinely non-racist institution. Since many blacks are long-service professionals, they also have high status.

And that is all it takes to overcome the centuries of prejudice. It was never really about color. It was always about power.

People like Tiger Woods, born of inter-racial relationships in a society with egalitarian values, will not submit to being sorted by the shade of their skins. It will take another generation or two, but the old racist games are over, and the future is light brown.

The writer is a London-based freelancer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RECIPE FOR DISASTER

Sir, – The survival of Israel is now in the balance. From our often unhappy history, many Jews believe that Israel's survival requires continuous displays of force and armed might. This approach has not worked: not for Israel, not elsewhere. Sooner or later, history shows, it is self-defeating.

In this season of celebration of our freedom, our fellow Jews should consider the following:

Israel's present "tough line" must lead to continuing disaster for future generations, Israeli and Palestinian.

Those who truly love Jerusalem

will not mind sharing its ancient places and beauty with others for whom it also has deep historical and spiritual meaning.

Remember the wisdom of King Solomon faced in Jerusalem by two women making exclusive claims to possess the one infant. Rather than destroy the child by trying to hold onto it regardless, real love was proved by a willingness to let go. The choice here is a kinder one: Not to surrender or destroy Jerusalem, only to share it lovingly.

Today, nations no longer prosper by amassing land and dominating their neighbors militarily. Not size of territory but human strength –

economic, cultural, scientific and technological – make countries like Singapore, Luxembourg and Japan internationally influential. Doesn't Israel command comparable human resources?

The fates of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples have become inseparable. However unwelcome, this fact is undeniable. For one to survive, both must – together. There is no choice other than reconciliation and compromise. An "all or nothing" stance, experience teaches, will deliver only a costly nothing.

PROF. CLIVE KESSLER

Randwick, Australia.

THE KAISER IN PALESTINE

Sir, – In the Post of April 2, the caption under the photograph of Prince George, great-grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, reads that he is here to retrace the journey of the Kaiser to Palestine in 1898.

In 1898, my father, Moshe Loubman, was present when Herzl met the kaiser. My father was a student at Mikve Yisrael Agricultural School. Herzl visited the school and my father was chosen to serve him. Herzl and the kaiser talked outside the gate of the school, after which the kaiser and his retinue went to Jerusalem.

The country was hot and arid – no trees, no shade, plenty of mosquitoes, malaria and yellow fever. The kaiser told Herzl that the land would belong to the people who made it green.

And guess which people made the land green!

ZILLA GALE

Jerusalem.

DEALING WITH VIPERS

Sir, – Recently, on her return from work, my wife was alerted by the dogs barking and pawing at the balcony sliding door in our Pardess Hanna home. Upon investigation, she was shocked to see a viper between the open outer sliding screen door and the balcony door. My wife identified the snake as a poisonous viper from its characteristic markings and triangular head.

She immediately called me at work for advice in dealing with the deadliest of snakes. Having been raised in the US where dangerous situations immediately galvanize the public safety sector into action, I told her to call the police. The 100 operator thereupon told her that the police did not handle matters such as this and that we were to call our local council to have them take care of the snake.

Upon calling the Pardess Hanna municipal emergency headquarters, she was advised that only for

a fee of NIS 300 would a private contractor rid us of the threat. I told my wife not to engage the contractor, to carefully close the screen door, and that I would deal with the snake upon my return from work. Minutes later, the municipal emergency headquarters called back and asked her if we would pay NIS 150 for the snake's removal. No deal.

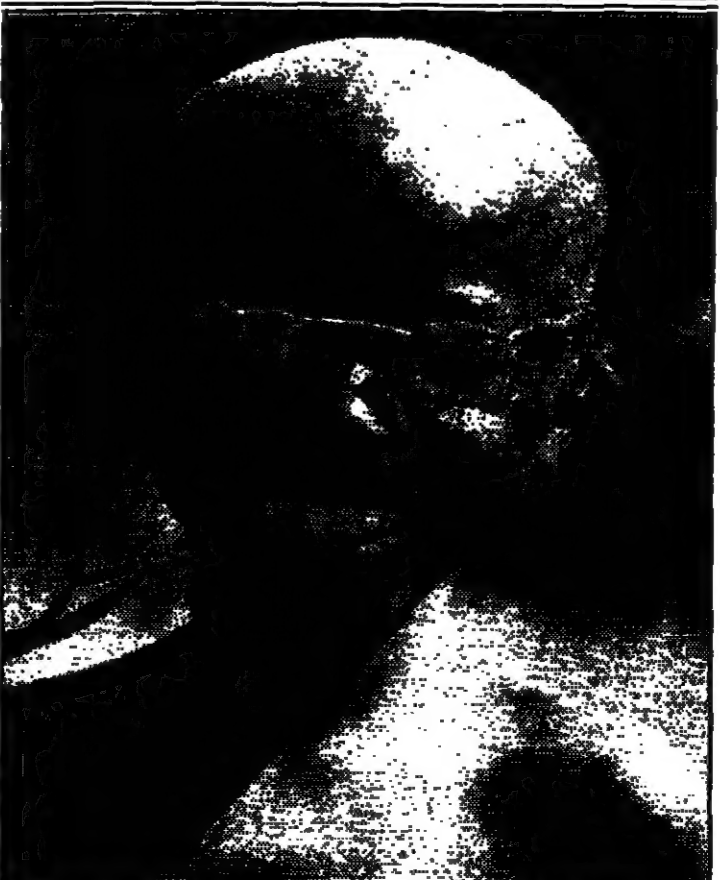
Thereafter, I returned home, very carefully opened the screen door to reveal the viper, now coiled and ready to strike. I dispatched the snake with a very long-handled weeding tool, and took its measure: a bit over a meter in length.

It is absolutely inconceivable to me that the police were not concerned about this very real threat to life. If not the police, whom shall we rely upon the next time danger threatens?

JOSEPH S. WEISBERGER

Pardess Hanna.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



This photo won David Cohen of Tel Aviv first prize in a contest to find the best picture of sunglasses. Cohen, a 31-year-old new immigrant from England, snapped this 12-year-old boy in Zambia who assembled do-it-yourself specs from litter he scavenged. The contest was run by the Yofi Optics company.

POSTSCRIPTS

A BRITISH woman recently celebrated the birth of a baby boy born 22 months after his twin sister in a surrogacy arrangement which gives the children three mothers.

The twin embryos were conceived in a test tube from the same batch of eggs collected from Tricia Gunther, 41, who spent 14 years trying to have a baby by fertility treatment.

Gunther and her husband Julian found the first surrogate mother after advertising in a shop window. The woman, Teresa Finlay, gave birth in 1995 to baby Jennifer.

But Finlay was unwilling to go through another surrogate pregnancy to provide a sibling for Jennifer so the Gunthers found a second woman, Gaynor Crutchley, to carry the baby.

SOMEONE IS attacking drunks in Nicaragua with hickey-like love bites.

The dreaded "chupabulos" – "drunksucker" – preys on men who have passed out in the streets of Managua, leaving hickeys on various parts of their bodies.

Enraged drunks and street people in this town known for its machismo have organized a so-far unsuccessful search for the culprit who finds victims in the dark streets surrounding a local market. The number of victims was unknown.

A Berlin rabbi's wartime tale

By RICK HAMPSON

The Holocaust and the war were over. A few young Jews walked up to the gate of a vast Jewish cemetery in Berlin, a graveyard so overgrown and cratered that it looked like a metaphor for German Jewry.

These men already had seen too much — at Auschwitz, they'd thought they'd seen the end of the world — but even they were shocked by what greeted them at the cemetery gate.

A rabbi. A rabbi who told them he'd lived and worked openly here through the war, who said he'd hidden Torah scrolls and sacred objects from the Nazis.

And that was why they had been called here, to dig them up. Later, as they were leaving, the rabbi urged each to take something he had unearthed. One of the men, Werner Coppel, thought of a common attitude at Auschwitz toward such holy items: "What good did they do us?" Still, he picked up a tallit. A long one, off-white with black stripes and a silver collar and fringe at the borders.

As he left with his shawl, Coppel wondered: Who is this rabbi? And why is he alive?

His name was Martin Riesenburger, and he was the last rabbi of Berlin.

In the capital of the Third Reich, in the midst of the Holocaust, Riesenburger secretly tended the embers of Judaism. Acting within the law, he gave hundreds of Jews a gift that was denied millions of others — a religious burial.

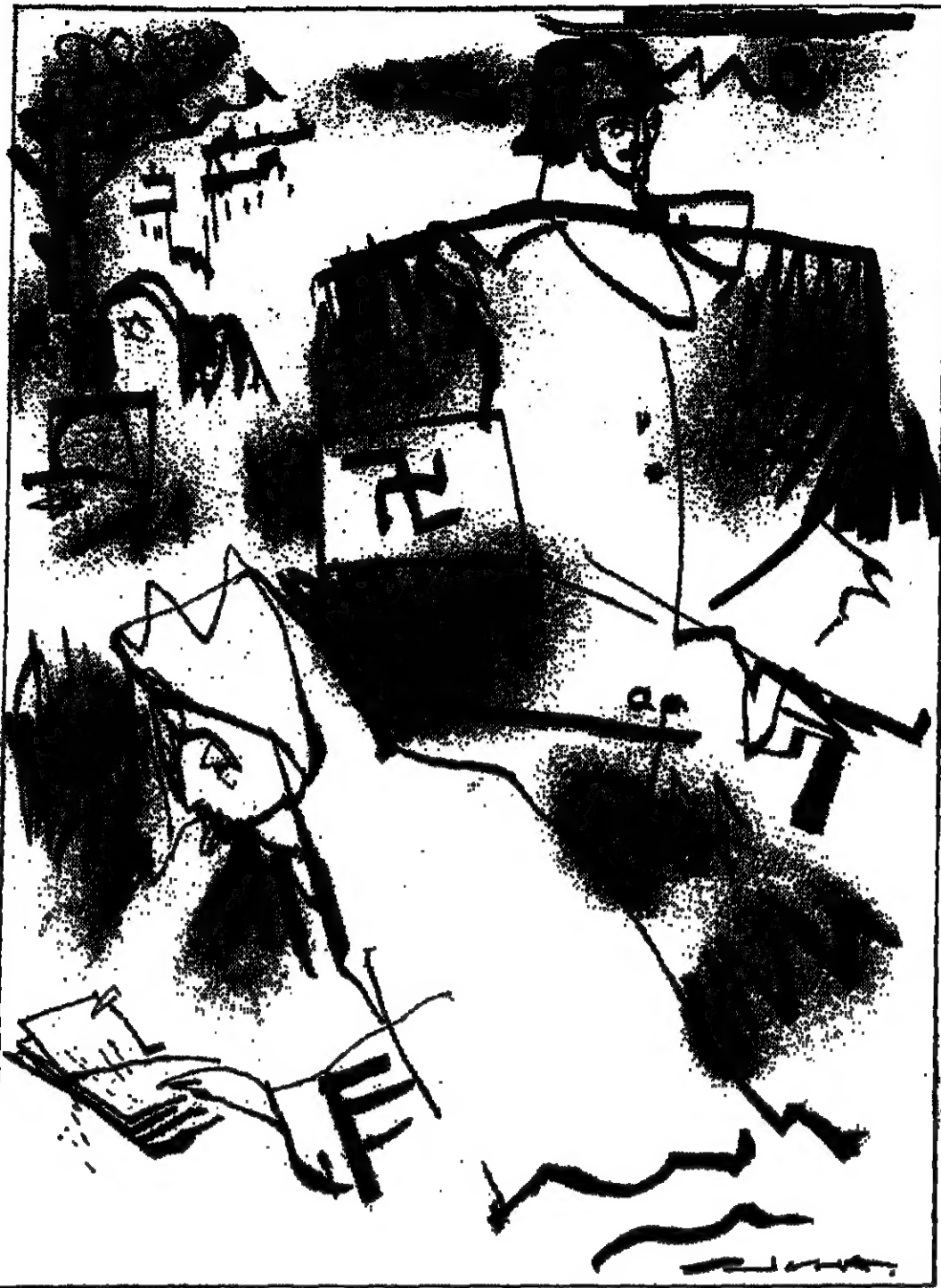
Acting outside the law, and at great risk, he conducted secret services and hid sacred objects. He even erected a succa.

"Right under the nose of the Nazis, this rabbi gave Jews hope," says Rabbi Bernard Zlotowitz, an American scholar who is studying Riesenburger. "For this alone, he deserves our praise and gratitude." Riesenburger started out as a chaplain at Berlin's Jewish old-age home.

That was 1933, the year Hitler took power. By 1941 the destruction of German Jewry was half completed, and Riesenburger had to wear a yellow Star of David on the left side of his tallit.

But Riesenburger had a source of protection: his wife. She was born a Christian and, even though she converted to Judaism in the 1920s, under Nazi race laws she still was regarded as Aryan. As her spouse, Riesenburger, like several thousand other Berlin Jews, was initially spared deportation to a concentration camp.

In late 1942, the Gestapo announced it would close the old-age home and deport its residents.



idents. Riesenburger held a final service in the home's synagogue.

"I made a short speech, interrupted by the crying of those present," he recalled in his autobiography, *The Light that Never*

This was the work of Alois Brunner, an ambitious young Gestapo official who had quickly and ruthlessly deported Vienna's Jews (and is now believed to be hiding in Damascus, protected by the

he'd once presided over a ceremony marking a couple's golden wedding.

After a week he was called in to see Hauptsturmführer Brunner. In his autobiography,

Assigned to another synagogue, Riesenburger held services at which Gestapo agents often outnumbered Jews.

Failed. When it was over, "we all shook hands, because we could not speak." Working quickly — furniture was tossed out the windows, straw thrown on the floor — the Gestapo turned the home into a detention pen for Jews.

Syrian government). The deportation of Berlin Jews was going too slowly, and Brunner's mission was to make the city "Judenfrei" — free of Jews.

Riesenburger was arrested, taken to the old-age home and locked in the same room where

Riesenburger says only that Brunner told him to resume his work and released him. Assigned to another synagogue, he held services at which Gestapo agents often outnumbered Jews. The latter realized, Riesenburger said, "it was only

a trap." In June 1943, Riesenburger secretly married a Jewish couple. He was 40, she 37. A few days later they were deported to a camp.

It was the last marriage Riesenburger performed during the war; after that, there were only funerals.

Although Berlin had been declared "Judenfrei," about 7,000 Jews still lived there. Some were underground; some were special workers; some, like Riesenburger, were married to Aryans.

When these Jews died they had to be buried. The Nazis didn't want Germans to do it, so they assigned Riesenburger to Weissensee, the largest and now the last functioning Jewish cemetery in Berlin.

Riesenburger seems to have been appointed for two reasons: because he was protected, and because he was nobody.

"He was not a brilliant man, like some of the rabbis we had," says Jerry Bocian, who as a schoolboy met Riesenburger. "His sermons were simple. There were no great philosophical thoughts, I can't imagine him in the pulpit of one of the big synagogues."

But the Nazis had killed or jailed the great spiritual and intellectual monuments of the German rabbinate. That left Riesenburger, a warm, unpretentious man who liked to read his wife Bible stories. He wasn't even an ordained rabbi. He was a cantor, a vocation founded on his two early loves: God and music.

"He was not a big man, a leader," recalls Marcus Saferstein, another Berliner who knew him. "If he was, they would have taken him away." And so, as millions of European Jews were incinerated like waste paper, Martin Riesenburger began giving a lucky few a decent burial.

At first, he performed several funerals each day. Many were suicides, including people who had received a summons to Gestapo headquarters. Often, remains arrived in the mail in an urn, with a return address at Auschwitz or Buchenwald. They came C.O.D.

Riesenburger prepared the body for burial, led the small funeral procession, said the prayers and played the organ.

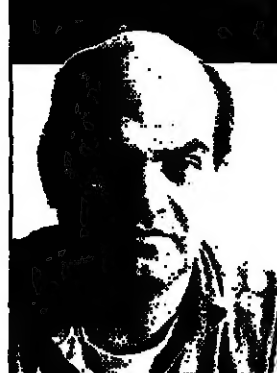
He always gave a eulogy. "He wouldn't stop talking until the last person had his handkerchief out," recalls Liselotte Clemens, who worked at the cemetery as a teenager.

"He could really squeeze the tear ducts." He did it not by mentioning current events — he never even alluded to politics — but by preaching hope, by stressing that there was something eternal that nothing could extinguish. (Reuters)

Not Page One

Was Shamir a terror target?

By Sam Orbaum



Was Yitzhak Shamir targeted for assassination in 1993 by an Arab hit team? At the very least, a known terrorist was able to infiltrate security and get into point-blank position a meter away from the former PM.

This uneasy story could be easily dismissed and left for conspiracy theorists or Hollywood hacks to play with. But there is solid evidence that's hard to ignore, and certainly, Scotland Yard is taking it all quite seriously.

Shamir was in London on May 19, 1993, to participate in a Jerusalem Day celebration organized by Likud Herut of Great Britain at the Finchley Synagogue.

Colin Leci, a London Jew, was at the scene when Shamir arrived, and snapped a photo of the guest of honor. Almost immediately he noticed a young woman, Samar Alami, directly behind Shamir.

Leci knew her, and knew she was not exactly a member of the Shamir Fan Club.

By coincidence, Leci had worked with Alami in the same department of a chemical company. When he saw her once wearing a gold pendant in the shape of a map of Israel, her political affiliations became apparent: there are not many Lebanese Zionists.

Leci greeted Alami just after taking the photo, and asked what she was doing there. She responded defensively: "The advertisement [in the *Jewish Chronicle*] stated that all were welcome." Leci quickly dispatched his son to alert the security detail, though she was allowed into the women's section of the synagogue, passing through a superficial security check.

Before the end of the ceremony, she walked out and was driven away by a waiting car.

Odd... but not enough to get excited about.

Until you consider this: Alami, 31, was later arrested in connection with the July 1994 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in London and another attack, the following day, of a Jewish philanthropic organization in London.

In December 1996, she was found guilty of masterminding the operations and was sentenced to 20 years in jail.

Scotland Yard eagerly snapped

up Leci's info — and photo — though he doesn't know what use they made of it.

Alright, then: let's be skeptical.

If Alami had her chance to get at Shamir outside the synagogue — and she was barely a meter away from him, with no one between them — why didn't she pull the trigger then? Her getaway would have been a lot easier than from inside the crowded building.

Perhaps her cover was blown by Leci; remember, his son left the scene to alert security.

Why did she enter the synagogue at all? Surely she wouldn't risk being caught with a weapon.

Even if she wasn't armed, there's room for conjecture, however wild: the plan may have been to carry out an attack from outside, with her inside to send a signal; she, or they, may have assumed Shamir would deliver a speech from the pulpit (he didn't), and may have rigged up a bomb (with Alami holding the remote-control trigger) which failed to detonate.

She is, after all, a chemical engineer.

What interest would there have been to murder a former prime minister?

Because an assault at a Zionist celebration for the reunification of Jerusalem would have been a satisfying treat for their cause; because the opportunity presented itself to kill an Israeli of stature, and security would have been less tight than for an active political figure.

Even the most skeptical rationalist would have to admit Alami was not there to throw flowers. Even if there was no murder plan, what possible interest would there be for a terrorist operative to risk attending such a non-sensitive, meaningless event? To spy? Certainly, Shamir was not being publicly revealed anything of strategic importance.

Even if you dismiss a murder plot as imaginative conjecture, there's a peripheral issue that can't be ignored: security was so lax around the shockingly vulnerable former prime minister that someone was able to get within arm's reach, with no one between them.

That someone happened to be a mortal enemy.

It was a lesson we would later learn.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

By DVORA BEN SHAI

Dogs and cats, as well as many other animals, including cage birds and domestic livestock, are sometimes afflicted by allergies. The symptoms of allergies in pets are similar to those seen in humans: watery eyes, sneezing, wheezing, coughing, skin irritations, digestive upsets and a variety of other symptoms.

Some of these allergies are to pollens and other natural substances, but this is not the norm.

Most pet allergies are human induced. Their basis is in the chemicals and other products that humans have put into the system.

Some dogs (and cats) are allergic to some of the additives that are a natural component of commercially produced kibble.

Such a pet simply cannot eat any of the dry pet foods which are available on the market without suffering severe digestive upsets and has to have a totally different diet.

But other chemical products can also induce allergic reactions. I remember

a Labrador retriever that was losing hair and scratched itself day and night. A series of veterinary consultations failed to find the reason why.

Finally, they gave the dog a steroid and the symptoms disappeared. The owner, a nurse, realized that this must be an allergy.

She tried several things and then found that the attacks were more severe every two weeks — after she had washed the dog's blanket.

She started to wash the cotton rug-blanket with a good soap and then rinsed it a second time through a

whole wash cycle without soap at all. The problem simply disappeared.

Many dogs, and even more cats, are allergic to cigarette smoke.

Some cats actually develop a clinical asthma from close association with a smoker. Passive smoke exposure also causes eye irritations and sniffles in cats.

They can also acquire allergies to cleaning materials used for food dishes and water pans.

The use of polyvinylestrol dishes can make a black-nosed dog develop a brown or pink nose, as the plastic has

an effect on the pigment cells.

But, by and large, one of the most terrible allergies is to the toxins of simple fleas.

In this case, it really doesn't matter whether the dog has one or 1,000 fleas; the results are the same and some dogs scratch themselves to the point where they actually flay all the flesh from half their bodies.

This is a serious matter — it can be fatal — and can only be controlled by absolute elimination of fleas and steroid treatment.

Herbicides sprayed to control weeds

in gardens and in empty lots are also a problem.

While a large amount of exposure to these poisonous chemicals will affect any dog or cat (or person), even a very small amount can cause severe symptoms in some animals.

Cats are especially sensitive since they not only get the amount of material that is absorbed by the skin, but, in cleaning themselves, they swallow it as well.

At this time of year it is especially important to guard against exposure to such materials.

DEAR RUTHIE

The dilemmas of single motherhood

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I am 38 years old. Though once married briefly in my early twenties, I have no children. My problem is that I desperately want a child now, before it is too late, but there is no man I am interested in sharing my life with. This is a serious problem for me because I do not want to have a child on my own. I do not believe in bringing a baby into this world as a single parent. This leaves me very few options. I am in a true dilemma, and, as of yet, nobody has given me advice which has proven useful.

Yearning for Ruby but not for a Ruby. Jerusalem. Dear Yearning. Often what we think of as a dilemma is a smoke screen we erect to cloud ambivalence of a very different sort from that which we acknowledge. You, for exam-

ple, may be ambivalent about becoming a mother altogether. Not finding any man suitable might be your unconscious method of avoiding parenthood — and, hence, of avoiding confronting that fear.

This is not to say that your desire for a child is false, but that it might be enveloped in deep-seated anxiety. Like most of us, you are probably gifted at the problem. Like most of us, you are probably involved in a tug of war between your conscious and unconscious. Also like most of us, your unconscious is a far superior player.

So, until your gut makes a decision that it is a baby you want above all else, no man will come along who is suitable. Similarly, once a genuine internal decision is made, either a man will miraculously appear, or your resistance to having a baby on your own will wane.

Dear Ruthie, I grew up in an Orthodox home in the U.S. but steered away from religion when I went to college. At

college I met my first wife — a non-Jewish woman — with whom I have a son (now grown). After becoming a physician, I fell in love with, and subsequently married, a Jewish woman I met at the hospital where I worked. She and I made aliyah together. We then had two daughters. When the girls were very young, my wife began dabbling in spiritual movements, such as EST and I Am, which began to be fashionable among her social circles. I was very opposed to her interest in these groups, and was instrumental in turning her away from them.

Now, several years later, feeling a void in my life, I have become nostalgic for my religious childhood. So I have begun to study and attend lectures at our community center on religion.

My wife is very angry, and accuses me of doing exactly what I had forbidden her to do a few years back when she was searching for spiritualism. I cannot accept considering her search and mine comparable. Will she and I be able to come to some understanding or common ground? Or is this a step

in the direction of a second divorce for me?

Soul Searching. Somewhere in Israel. Dear Soul Searching.

Whether or not EST can be compared to Judaism is irrelevant where you and your wife are concerned. The quest for spiritualism seems to be something you and she have in common, though at different stages in your lives. Apparently, she is resentful of your having (successfully) put a stop to her searching, while you later went about your own quest without consulting her.

The question of whether you will be able to reach some understanding with your wife will depend on the degree of respect you exhibit for one another's desire to explore, as well as on the extent to which one or the other of you can say whether a second divorce is in process.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For e-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

book department

THE POMEGRANATE PENDANT: A Historical Novel

by Dvora Waysman



This is a novel of Jerusalem, seen through the eyes of Mazal ben-Yehiya — a fourteen year old newlywed in Sama's in the year 1881, through the years in the Jewish Quarter, to the finale in 1956. The events, people and streets of Jerusalem are made real for the reader. Hardcover, 217 pp.

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Major gets his priorities straight

LONDON (AP) — Cricket was the first thing on John Major's mind as he left 10 Downing Street for the last time Friday as prime minister.

Major, swept from power by Labor's landslide victory over the Conservatives in Thursday's general elections, shifted his priorities quickly.

After meeting the Queen at Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation, Major went to the staid Oval cricket ground in south London to watch English country cricket side Surrey play a one-day match against the British universities.

It was a better result than election day as Major, a Surrey fan, saw his side win by six wickets.

The former prime minister wore sunglasses on the unusually warm spring day, posed for pictures and signed autographs for a few fans.

"I'm in very good spirits and I'm enjoying myself. I always enjoy myself at the Oval," said Major, accompanied by his wife Norma, his son James and daughter Elizabeth.

"It's a good game of cricket and I'm enjoying it very much," he added. "Where else would I go on a day like today when the sun is shining? One autograph seeker suggested voters may have made a poor decision at the polls. But Major fell back on an old cricket axiom.

"The umpire's decision is final," he said.

In addition to cricket, Major is also a lifelong fan of the soccer club Chelsea, which will play later this month against Middlesbrough in the prestigious F.A. Cup final at Wembley.

Major said Friday he would be unable to attend the game because of a prior commitment.

Lakers advance in spite of 'Shaq Wackers'

PORTLAND (AP) — Maybe the Los Angeles Lakers can take those "Shaq Wackers" with them to Utah.

The Portland Trail Blazers' promotion department handed out 10,000 of the annoying noisemakers to fans for Friday night's crucial playoff game, figuring the sound would bother the Lakers, especially at the free-throw line.

To the contrary, the Lakers made 15 of 44 at the line, including 10 straight in the last two minutes, to beat the Blazers 95-91 and advance to the Western Conference semifinals with a 3-1 victory in the best-of-5 series.

Game 1 of Los Angeles' best-of-7 series against Utah is today in Salt Lake City.

In the only other playoff game Friday night, Atlanta defeated Detroit 94-82 at the Palace to tie their best-of-5 series 2-2.

The Hawks play host to Game 5 today, with the winner advancing to the second round against defending champion Chicago.

"Whoever decided to hand out those fire cracker duds," Shaquille O'Neal said, "I concentrated more on my free throws, and it was great to make them in the clutch."

O'Neal, historically one of the league's most free-throw shooters (45 percent during the regular season), was 9-for-11 Friday night. Brian Campbell was 11-for-12, including four of the final 10.

O'Neal and Campbell scored 27 points apiece for the Lakers.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 23 points and 11 rebounds, but threw the ball during an 8-0 run that put LA up 85-55 with 32 seconds left.

The Blazers were knocked out in the first round for the fifth consecutive year.

Hawks 94, Pistons 82

Steve Smith scored 28 points

and Atlanta got 17 points from its much-maligned reserves to force another game.

Starters Mookie Blaylock, Dikembe Mutombo and Christian Laettner all had double-doubles for the Hawks. Blaylock had 10 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Mutombo had 16 points and 12 rebounds and Laettner had 11 points and 12 boards.

Thursday's Games

Sonics 122, Suns 115 (OT)

Visiting Seattle survived an incredible, game-tying 3-point shot by Rex Chapman with 1.9 seconds left in regulation and won in overtime to force a Game 5 last night.

The Suns battled back from an 11-point deficit in the final two minutes and tied the game on Chapman's circus shot from 25 feet.

Kidd sank a 3-pointer 1:05 into overtime for a 110-107 Phoenix lead — only the second lead of the game for the Suns.

But Seattle battled back, drawing even on Detlev Schrempf's 3-point and going ahead for good 113-110 when he hit two free throws with 2:54 to go.

Magie 99, Heat 91

Penny Hardaway played the entire game and shot 12-for-23 with seven rebounds, four steals and three blocked shots for the hosts who take the series to a fifth game today.

NBA Playoff Glance

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-5)

Thursday's results: Orlando 99, Miami 91 (Series tied 2-2); Seattle 122, Phoenix 115 (OT) (Series tied 2-2).

Friday's results: Atlanta 94, Detroit 82 (Series tied 2-2); LA Lakers 95, Portland 91 (Lakers win series 3-1).

Last night: Phoenix at Seattle.

Today: Orlando at Miami, Detroit at Atlanta.



STRIDE-FOR-STRIDE — Leicester City's Neil Lennon battles Manchester United's Eric Cantona for the ball at Filbert Street yesterday. The game ended in a 2-2 draw.

Solskjaer rescues Utd in 2-2 draw

LONDON (AP) — Two goals by Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued Manchester United from a 0-0 draw at Stamford Bridge.

League Cup winner Leicester scored early through defender Steve Walsh and striker Ian Marshall at Filbert Street before Solskjaer, who also scored Norway's equalizer in a 1-1 World Cup tie with Finland Wednesday, hit back either side of half time.

After 16 minutes Walsh drove home the first at the far post after a corner from Garry Parker had been flicked on. Four minutes later, Marshall broke through a feeble challenge from United defender Gary Pallister and blasted the ball past goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel with his left foot.

A minute before half time, Schmeichel saved from Marshall and that stunted the move that led to United's first goal. Solskjaer switched the ball out to Cole, who

beat a defender before crossing from the left and the Norwegian striker was unmarked as he fired the ball home.

Seven minutes into the second half it was 2-2 when Cole got through again. United States international goalkeeper Casey Keller made a good blocking save but Solskjaer followed up to shoot home with the 'keeper grounded.

Newcastle won at Highbury despite having Northern Ireland winger Keith Gillespie sent off for his second yellow card. In a bad-tempered game, referee Martin Bodenham showed it eight more times.

Brighton's long struggle to avoid dropping out of the league altogether ended in a dramatic last-day survival after a 1-1 tie at Hereford.

Coincidentally, they were the last two teams in Division Three and they would be tied on points.

After spending six months at the

foot of the standings and struggling to stay afloat financially, Brighton only moved above Hereford last week and yesterday's result means that Hereford finish last on goal difference and drops out of the league after 25 years.

Macclesfield, who finished top of the Vauxhall Conference League, will make their first appearance in the pro league next season as Hereford's replacement.

Arsenal 0, Newcastle 1 (0-1)

England goalkeeper David Seaman produced a brilliant save to deny Lee Clark a minute before half time but Newcastle scored from the corner. Darren Peacock seized possession to pull the ball back into the goalmouth, where Robbie Elliott ran in to head home.

Chelsea 0, Leeds 0

With Gianfranco Zola rested to make sure he's fit for the May 17 FA Cup final, Chelsea had few ideas against a well-organized

Brighton deducted 2 pts due to field invasion

Scottish Premier

Rangers 33 24 5 4 63 28 77

Celtic 33 21 5 7 72 31 68

Dundee Utd 34 17 9 8 46 29 60

Hibernian 35 13 10 12 42 42 60

Dunfermline 35 12 8 15 50 63 44

Aberdeen 35 10 13 12 44 53 43

Hibernian 34 9 10 15 36 51 37

Kilmarnock 34 11 4 19 40 60 33

Motherwell 34 8 10 16 40 53 34

R-Falch 35 6 6 23 28 72 24

ch champions, p promoted, po playoffs

relegated

Premier League: Arsenal 0, Newcastle 1; Chelsea 0, Leeds 0; Coventry 1, Derby 2; Leicester 2, Manchester United 2; Liverpool 2, Tottenham 1; Middlesbrough 3, Aston Villa 2; Nottingham Forest 1, Wimbledon 1; Southampton 2, Blackburn 0; Sunderland 3, Everton 0; West Ham 5, Sheffield Wednesday 1.

Division One: Manchester City 3, Reading 2; Division Two: Brentford 0, Peterborough 1; Bristol Rovers 1, Rotherham 2; Burnley 4, Watford 1; Bury 2, Millwall 0; Chesterfield 1, Notts County 0; Gillingham 2, Shrewsbury 0; Luton 1, Stockport 1; Plymouth 0, Burnmouth 0; Preston 2, Walsall 0; Wrexham 2, Blackpool 1; Wycombe 2, Bristol City 0; York 1, Crawley 1.

Division Three: Barnet 2, Colchester 4; Cambridge United 0, Fulham 1; Carlisle 2, Exeter 0; Chester 0, Leyton Orient 1; Darlington 2, Cardiff 1; Doncaster 2, Torquay 1; Hereford 1, Brighton 1; Hull 0, Scarborough 2; Lincoln 0, Rochdale 2; Northampton 1, Scunthorpe 0; Swansea 2, Hartlepool 2; Wigan 2, Mansfield 0.

Scottish Premier: Aberdeen 2, Raith 0; Dundee United 1, Hearts 0; Dunfermline 3, Kilmarnock 1.

Triple-jump champion Edwards at Wingate

By HEATHER CHAIT

One of the world's greatest athletes, triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, arrives in Israel today for a week's training camp at Netanya's Wingate Institute.

British-born Edwards, 30, who stunned the world with his 18.29 meters jump at the 1995 World Athletic championships in Goteborg, will hold joint training sessions with local champion Rogel Nahum and Avi Tyrie.

Edwards's visit to Israel culminates five years of friendship between Nahum and the world champion.

"Since I met Jonathan, we've been trying to fit a visit to Israel into his hectic schedule," said Nahum last night, adding, "as a Christian, he is very keen to visit here."

This year Edwards decided not to compete in the World Indoor Athletics championships in Paris in March, choosing to devote himself to preparing for the world championships, due to be held in Athens in October.

Whalers set for move to Raleigh

FAYETTEVILLE, NC (AP) — Barring an 11th-hour deal with the Greensboro Coliseum, the Hartford Whalers will move its temporary NHL home to Fayetteville, the team's owner said Friday.

The team's permanent home will be Raleigh's new \$120 million arena, to be completed by 1999.

The Centennial Authority, the group that oversees Raleigh's new arena, has scheduled a meeting tomorrow, most likely to sign the lease agreement with Whalers' owner Pete Karmanos.

The Whalers would join the NFL's Carolina Panthers and NBA's Charlotte Hornets in the suddenly thriving sports state dominated for years by college basketball.

The Panthers and Hornets were expansion teams, while the Whalers would leave the city that has been their NHL home for 20 years. The Whalers lost about \$15 million while drawing an average of 13,657 fans last year, according to Chris Brown, the team's media director.

Conference Semifinals

Devils 2, Rangers 0

Martin Brodeur recorded his second straight playoff shutout and Scott Niedermayer scored a power-play goal as the New Jersey Devils defeated the New York Rangers 2-0 Friday night in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Devils lead the best-of-7 Eastern Conference semifinal 1-0. Game 2 is today in New Jersey.

Red Wings 2, Mighty Ducks 1

Martin Lapointe scored 55 seconds into overtime as host Detroit won the opening game of the Western Conference semifinals.

NHL Playoff Glance

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7)

Friday's results: New Jersey 2, NY Rangers 0 (New Jersey leads series 1-0); Detroit 2, Anaheim 1 (OT) (Detroit leads series 1-0); Colorado 5, Edmonton 1 (Colorado leads series 1-0).

Last night: Philadelphia at Buffalo.

Stich to retire in fall

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich said Friday he will retire at the end of the season because of a worn-out body.

Working under the shadow of compatriot Boris Becker, Stich peaked to No. 2 in the ATP Tour rankings in 1993, but has dropped to No. 100.

The winner at Wimbledon in 1991 and the ATP Tour World Championship in 1993, Stich said he had thought about retiring after an early exit in the 1995. A first-round defeat at a Barcelona tournament last year triggered his decision, announced at a news conference where he shed back tears.

Stich, 26, said he would enter this year's French Open in Wimbledon as a farewell to his career in Germany's Davis Cup relegation series in Mexico in September.

In 1994, Stich helped Germany win the Davis Cup. He has won 14 ATP Tour singles titles and nine in doubles.

Stich and Becker were bitter rivals for the affection of the German public, despite teaming up to win Olympic gold in the doubles at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Stich, in 1993-94, when Stich supported Becker as Germany's top player, recording a long stint as the world No. 2 behind Pete Sampras, he also earned the adoration Becker had.

"I received more recognition for my accomplishments from the public in Germany than I ever got."

UEFA favors 'doubleheaders' for nat'l teams

MOSCOW (AP) — UEFA president Henri Delmotte said Friday that the European football confederation favors "doubleheaders" for national teams.

The confederation's annual congress in Moscow approved a proposal to allow national teams to play two matches in one day, a move that would allow them to play more games in the same season.

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UEFA wants to force domestic leagues to suspend their program for certain weekends a year so that 10 national team games can be fitted in. Most major leagues already do this on a voluntary basis.

Players from Africa and North and South America have run into ongoing problems with their clubs because of conflicts by their countries, who play in different confederations and at different times of the season.

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Frustrated Hill warns Arrows he's keeping his options open

LONDON (AP) — Reigning Formula One champion Damon Hill, angry after crashing out of last weekend's San Marino Grand Prix, has warned his Arrows team that he won't stand for becoming an also-ran in the sport.

The British driver's season reached a new low last Sunday when he earned a suspended one-race ban after slamming into the car of Shinji Nakano on the 11th lap. It was the fourth grand prix of the season and the fourth time Hill failed to reach the finish line.

Hill then had to watch from the sidelines as Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the German who replaced him at Williams, won his first grand prix race.

Hill joined Arrows on a one-year deal worth a reported £4.5 million (\$7m) after being dumped by Williams just a few days before winning last season's drivers' championship — his first.

Hill is seeking assurances from Arrows team chief Tom Walkinshaw that there is a competitive car on the horizon.

"I want to concentrate on the job, but I am constantly inquiring with Tom how things are proceeding," he said.

"It's important for me to know what the future is next year for the team." The 36-year-old Hill wants to keep his options open if a seat in a top car comes open next season. Benetton's driver lineup of Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi seems set to change next season while McLaren could also have a place up for grabs.

"I don't have to make a decision for a while, but you have to plan ahead," added Hill, who believes the future should be mapped out by the time of the British Grand Prix in mid-July.

"I very much became a victim of not planning ahead enough" last season so I am making sure that doesn't happen this time.

"I think by Silverstone the picture will become a lot clearer. I don't think any decision will have been made, but it will become a lot more obvious," Ann Bradshaw, spokeswoman for Arrows, said Hill was frustrated but realistic.

"He's calm but frustrated with what happened (on Sunday)," Bradshaw said. "But he's realistic and knows building a strong car isn't going to happen overnight."

Will Carling chooses the perfect moment to retire

LONDON (Reuters) — With a sense of timing, rarely deviated from, Carling will retire from international rugby.

Carling, 26, has chosen the perfect moment to retire from international rugby.

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rugby World Cup.

He was just 22 and a veteran of 17 seven games for an England side which at the time belonged firmly to the world of international rugby.

In some respects, Carling was fortunate. He was surrounded by a group of talented players and had in manager Geoff Cooke a man who was also a player of being patronized by the rest of the rugby world.

Carling began the first of his World record 50 Tests as captain with a famous 29-19 victory over Australia.

"Everyone involved in the game has been turned," he said. "It's a great feeling."

Under Carling, England quickly became an international force, playing some breathtaking rugby in 1990 before being to grief in the grand slam final at Murrayfield.

Carling and his colleagues believed in the importance of the game, and they were not alone. The game was not just a sport, it was a way of life.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE



The story of a Jewish school built on the ruins of the Lodz Ghetto in 1948 is portrayed in 'Ecole 27,' on the Family Channel at 9:20 p.m.

In commemoration of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, there will be no entertainment events listed.

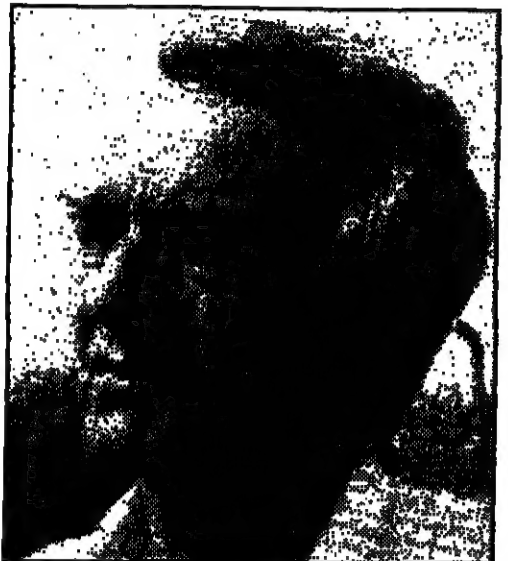
TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Tonight, the eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, all local Israeli television and cable channels are dedicating their entire programming to shows on the subject. Switch to any channel and you will find a documentary on a related topic through tomorrow afternoon.

A second live follow-up broadcast of *Lost Identity* will be screened tonight at 9 on Channel 1, with the new information found on Jewish children who lost their identity during the World War II in Poland.

Louis Malle's masterpiece, *Au Revoir Les Enfants*, about the friendship between a Christian boy and a Jewish boy hiding in a Catholic school in Nazi-occupied France will be shown tonight at 10:20.



'To Speak the Unspeakeable,' about the life of Elie Wiesel, appears on the Family Channel at 6:35 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Herzl and Zionism
8:30 Desires
9:00 Geography
9:20 Nature
9:30 English
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:15 Social Sciences
10:45 Arithmetic
11:10 English
12:20 Mathematics
12:30 Social Sciences
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Quentin Quack
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 1

15:00 Motormane from Mars
15:55 Body - cartoon
16:00 Paradise
16:30 A Tel Aviv schoolgirl participating in a children's opera first performed in the Theresienstadt concentration camp
16:50 Global Family Express
17:00 Our World, Their World
17:15 Clear Water, Big Fish
18:00 French programs
19:30 News headlines
19:35 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Side Effects
21:10 Tycoons
22:00 News in English
22:25 Hot Shots
23:15 Sisters - soap opera

MIDDLE EAST TV

16:30 Changed Lives
16:40 The Jewish child
17:15 Hour of Power
17:30 Central Message
18:00 Love Worth Risk
18:10 This Is Your Day
18:40 John Osteen
18:50 In Touch
19:00 Snowy River
19:30 America's Funniest Home Videos
19:50 The A-Team
20:10 Hunt for the Wild Boar
20:30 Remington Steele
21:00 Hill Street Blues
21:30 I Want to Remember
22:00 Beach Patrol
23:00 Land's End
00:00 Love Connection

the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Ravi Reshef
17:30 Elinor - drama
18:00 Roseanne
18:30 Can't Hurry Love
19:00 Documentary
19:30 News
20:00 The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day - live from Yad Vashem
20:50 The Saving Cross - the Christian background of anti-Semitism contrasted with the behavior of the Righteous Gentiles who saved Jews during WWII
21:45 Au Revoir Les Enfants (French, 1987) - based on incidents from the director Louis Malle's childhood, when the headmaster of a Catholic boarding school hid some Jewish children from the Nazis in occupied France. With Gaspard Manesse. Directed by Louis Malle.
00:35 On the Edge of the Shell

15:00 Motormane from Mars
15:55 Body - cartoon
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21:30 I Want to Remember
22:00 Beach Patrol
23:00 Land's End
00:00 Love Connection

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

18:15 Weekly Column
18:15 Good News
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Russian
20:00 News
21:00 Sophie's Choice (1982) - disturbing drama about a Holocaust survivor who returns to Poland in 1947, who must justify her existence to her dead children. Oscar-winning performance from Meryl Streep. Also with Kevin Kline. Directed by Alan J. Pakula.
23:30 Drancy: A Concentration Camp - documentary about the French concentration camp from which 74,500 women and children were sent to Auschwitz during 1941-1944

16:15 Weekly Column
18:15 Good News
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Russian
20:00 News
21:00 Sophie's Choice (1982) - disturbing drama about a Holocaust survivor who returns to Poland in 1947, who must justify her existence to her dead children. Oscar-winning performance from Meryl Streep. Also with Kevin Kline. Directed by Alan J. Pakula.
23:30 Drancy: A Concentration Camp - documentary about the French concentration camp from which 74,500 women and children were sent to Auschwitz during 1941-1944

CHANNEL 2

8:15 Today's programs
8:30 Johnny Quest
8:55 This Morning
9:00 This Morning
9:30 News
10:45 Dynasty (pt)
11:40 Yaron London's Parliament
12:00 Gentle and the Captain
13:00 Kate and Ellie
13:30 SportTV
14:00 The Kids of Degener Street
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Flintstones
15:25 Medicon
16:00 The Bold and

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 The Heart of Things
16:30 Possible World
17:00 Zombi
17:30 Hi-Tech Culture
18:00 Cybarras
18:30 Media File
19:00 Herzl and Zionism
19:30 The Story of a House - after WWII, children who had

CHANNEL 5

8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University

CHANNEL 5

8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University
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CHANNEL 5

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8:00 Open University
8:00 Open University

PRIME TIME TV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day	19:30 News The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day
20:00 Lost Identity	20:00 Lost Identity	20:00 Lost Identity	20:00 Lost Identity	20:00 Lost Identity	20:00 Lost Identity	20:00 Lost Identity	20:00 Lost Identity
21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget	21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget
22:00 News	22:00 News	22:00 News	22:00 News	22:00 News	22:00 News	22:00 News	22:00 News

PRIME TIME TV

her entire family in the Holocaust, which won the Oscar Award for best documentary
19:30 The Central Ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day
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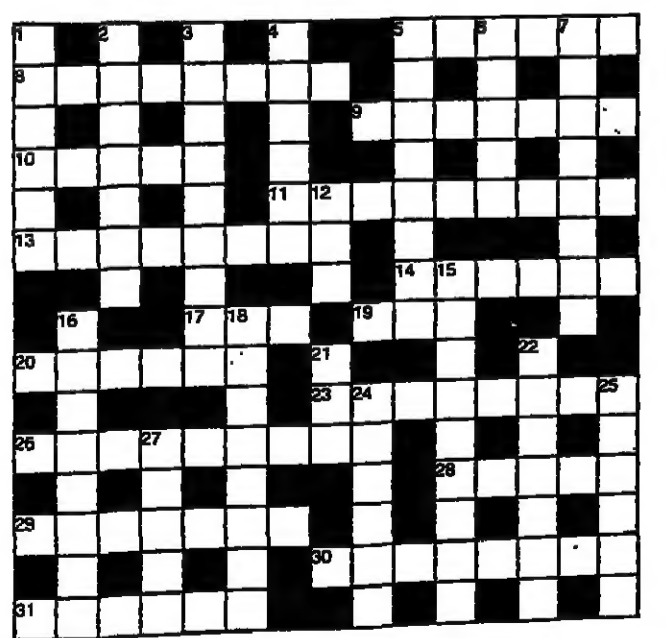
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20:00 Lost Identity
21:00 I Want to Remember, He Wants to Forget
22:00 News
23:00 News

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
5 A flier making childish complaint (6)
8 Contest that is boring people (4,4)
9 Deeper taking a step one way (7)
10 Several dined soundly (5)
11 Quiet technicians, but they're champions (8)
13 Upset arising from greed and corruption (8)
14 A supporter or two at the riverside (6)
17 Decline to go back in a cab, begrudging the cost (3)
19 View as the bishop's responsibility (3)
20 One needs a jacket for a dance (6)
23 Having arrived, turn back a worker—so high-handed (8)

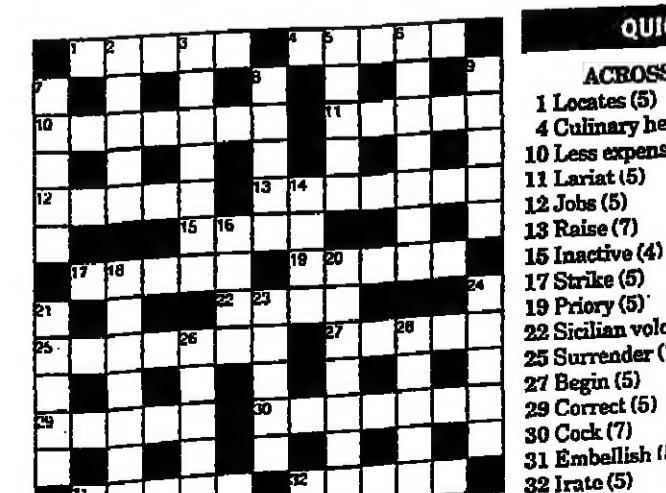
DOWN
1 Unsatisfactory tip causing disgust (6)
2 Pull the girl up—she's so slow! (7)
3 By retaining a note help a claimant (9)
4 Husband's difficulty (6)
5 Experiment underground in some laboratory (4,4)



SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 5. CRYSTAL, 8. BOREDOM, 9. DEEPER, 10. DINED, 11. QUIET, 13. GREED, 14. SUPPORTER, 17. DECLINE, 19. VIEW, 20. JACKET, 23. WORKER.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS: 1. LOCATES, 3. SET DOWN, 4. COFFIN, 11. LARVAT, 12. JOBS, 13. RAISE, 15. INACTIVE, 17. STRIKE, 19. PRIORY, 22. SICILIAN VOLCANO, 25. SURRENDER, 27. BEGIN, 29. CORRECT, 30. COCK, 31. EMBELLISH, 32. IRATE.

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NEWS

in brief

Israel, Czech Republic jointly issue stamps

Two stamps depicting Jewish sites in Prague have been issued by Israel and the Czech Republic. The ceremony marking the event, attended by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Czech Ambassador Jiri Schneider, Postal Authority chairman Amos Mar-Haim and authority director-general Moshe Tery, was held at the Eretz Yisrael Museum in Tel Aviv on Thursday. One stamp shows the interior of the Altneuschul synagogue, built in 1270, while the other shows the tombstone of Rabbi Judah Loew, the Maharal of Prague. The Israeli stamps sell for NIS 1.70; the Czech stamp of the Maharal's tomb is denominated at 10 crowns and the Altneuschul stamp at 8 crowns.

Judy Siegel

'30% of Israelis have unsuitable gas masks'

Thirty percent of residents do not have effective gas masks, Adi Eldar, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities, said on Friday. He said part of the problem is that the local stations replacing out-of-date gas masks are not operating effectively. Eldar said that in light of reports that Syria is continuing to equip itself with non-conventional weapons, the government must make home front defense a higher priority.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Soldier killed by stray bullet

A soldier, 20, from Kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'amakim, was killed early Friday morning on the kibbutz by a stray bullet fired by his friend, Ro'i Regev, 19, who was handling the soldier's gun. Regev, who was seriously wounded in Lebanon by a roadside bomb in late January, was remanded for seven days by Haifa Magistrate's Court on Friday.

The soldier had come to visit Regev, his neighbor on the kibbutz, while on leave from the army. While handling the M-16, Regev accidentally shot his friend in the neck. He was declared dead at the scene by Magen David Adom personnel.

Itim

Abu Marzook gives up US residency permit

Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzook has given up his US residency, setting the stage for his deportation to Jordan, a senior Hamas official said yesterday.

"Negotiations between Abu Marzook's lawyers and US officials have ended and we expect him to arrive in Jordan anytime," said Mohammed Nazzal, a Hamas representative to Jordan.

Earlier, Israel dropped its request for his extradition as a suspect in 10 terrorist attacks from 1990 to 1994 that killed 47 people.

AP

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance drawing were the king of spades, the eight of hearts, the nine of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

US: No evidence Arafat knew of World Trade Center bombing

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — The US Justice Department has dismissed a *Jerusalem Post* report alleging Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat knew in advance of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, citing a lack of evidence to back up the claim.

In a letter sent to Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter last week, Assistant Attorney General Andrew Fois said the department "is unaware of any information that Yasser Arafat either had prior knowledge of the bombing of the World Trade Center or was in any way involved in the conspiracy to bomb the building."

The Justice Department also asked Israeli officials about Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled's claims of Israel's knowledge of Arafat's involvement, and "they [the Israelis] deny the accuracy of the statements attributed" to Peled, Fois wrote.

Specter wrote to Attorney General Janet Reno last month

asking her to investigate the claims contained in the March 26 *Jerusalem Post* lead story. In the last Congress, Specter served as chairman of the Senate select committee on intelligence.

A senior American official said Friday that the US never put any credence in the news report and has seen no intelligence indicating Arafat was in any way involved in the plot.

The *Post* report had quoted Peled as saying Arafat "was part of the discussions on [the World Trade Center bombing] operation," and calling on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "to give the information to the Americans, so they'll know who they're dealing with."

Peled confirmed information relayed by intelligence sources that, several days before the February 26, 1993 bombing, Arafat met with Sudanese and Islamic terrorist leaders who discussed the plot.

Peled, who is abroad, could not be reached for comment last night.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures for Turkish Defense Minister Turgut Bayraktar to take a seat for their meeting Friday. (Reuters)

Report: Israel gave Turkey data on the MiG-29

News agencies

Israel has shared with Turkey secret information about MiG-29 warplanes, the type used by Syria's air force, a Turkish newspaper said yesterday.

Turkey's Defense Minister Turgut Bayraktar denied the report.

"There is no such thing," Tayan told a news conference a day after returning from Israel. "We even did not mention a MiG," Israel Aircraft Industries is upgrading 54 Turkish F-4 Phantoms.

Tayan said Israel may also bid for a modernizing project for 48 Turkish F-5 warplanes. Tayan held talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Friday.

"Our meeting represents the tightening cooperation between Israel and Turkey in all realms and foremost in the security realm," Netanyahu was quoted by his office as saying.

fare systems to allow them to detect the MiG-29s more easily.

Hurriyet said Israeli experts received the information on the Russian-made MiG-29s from a Western country, reportedly Germany.

Turkey and Israel have bolstered defense ties with a series of cooperation agreements, including a joint military training agreement heavily criticized by Iran and Arab countries.

The \$632.5 million F-4 upgrading project began two months ago.

Tayan said Israel may also bid for a modernizing project for 48 Turkish F-5 warplanes.

Tayan held talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Friday.

"Our meeting represents the tightening cooperation between Israel and Turkey in all realms and foremost in the security realm," Netanyahu was quoted by his office as saying.

Tayan said he hopes Turkey's good relations with Israel will contribute to peace in the Middle East.

Tayan arrived here last Wednesday on a visit seen as a further blow to the prestige of Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who won elections 16 months ago partly on a promise to cut military ties with Israel.

"There is room for additional cooperation primarily in the economic and security realm, such as the fight against terrorism and the preservation of stability in the region," Netanyahu was quoted as saying at the start of his talks with Tayan.

Turkey and Israel have signed defense cooperation pacts, which drew an angry response from Iran and many Arab countries. IAF planes have flown training flights in Turkey under the accords.

Israeli, US researchers challenge AIDS infection theory

By JUDY SIEGEL

An Israeli-American research team has challenged an influential US AIDS researcher and proposed a provocative new scenario of T-cell activity in HIV infection.

The analysis, by Prof. Zvi Grossman — a senior lecturer in physiology and pharmacology at Tel Aviv University and an adjunct professor of biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh — and Dr. Ronald Herberman of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, was published in the May 1 issue of *Nature Medicine*.

The new analysis, which could suggest new methods of treatment of AIDS, surmises several novel aspects of HIV infection, including a distinct adaptive response to the virus of the body's immune system, which makes many CD4 T lymphocytes, the most vulnerable target, vari-

ably resistant to HIV infection.

Grossman and Herberman also suggest that cell types other than CD4 cells play a major role in sustaining the infection, not only as additional HIV reservoirs but as part of the primary mechanism of HIV transmission among cells.

The two scientists challenge the "falling homeostasis" model proposed by Dr. David Ho, who was *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year" for 1996. Ho's theory was developed in 1995, when antiviral drugs were effectively used to block continued HIV infection of cells in patients; Ho explained the subsequent rise of CD4 cells as existing before the treatment and that after treatment, it exceeded cell loss. Based on this interpretation, scientists estimated a rapid turnover rate of CD4 cells before treatment.

But Grossman and Herberman claim the reasoning behind "falling homeostasis" is unsound, in that the turnover of CD4 cells need not be considered unusual. This reflects an adaptive response, they wrote, rather than simply being the result of cell depletion.

Regional radio pans IBA competition

By HELEN KAYE

Defending its turf, the Second Television and Radio Authority (STRA) has complained to the Prime Minister's Office, requesting the immediate closure of Kol Hanegev (106.3FM), which it terms a pirate regional radio station. The station operates with help from the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

STRA general manager Nahman Shai said that the station represents "a severe blow to the commercial regional radio network, which the law charged us to establish."

Shai further said that Kol Hanegev, which is operated out of the Sha'ar Hanegev regional school and college, will cut into the income and audience share of the STRA's Radio Darom, which serves the northern Negev.

"It is really idiotic to suggest that we are threatening anybody in any way," said Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council head Shai Hermesh, "and if it arouses Nahman Shai's jealousy, so be it."

The council funds the station, which is part of the college's communications degree program. "but we also have classes for fourth and fifth graders, all the way up to

12th grade," said Hermesh.

The station's transmitters and frequency come from the IBA. It broadcasts actively only during school hours; during other times, the frequency is used by Israel Radio's Reshet Bet.

It is purely an educational tool, Hermesh insisted. It has no advertising "and its quarter-kilowatt transmitter gives it a 20-30 kilometer radius. Some threat!"

Kol Hanegev is one of four such stations approved three years ago by former communications minister Shulamit Aloni "who bought our idea of educational radio on the periphery," Hermesh said.

But Radio Darom general manager Danny Yosob said that "the IBA has disguised the station as an educational tool." Since it opened in January 1996, Radio Darom has garnered 18% of the listening audience and its advertising slots — 216 minutes per 24 hours — are full.

This is not the first time that STRA has clashed with the IBA. It contends that the IBA-operated commercial stations Kol Haderet in the Dan region and Hagal Habatnah in the North contravene the spirit, if not the letter, of the law.

WEATHER

Haifa 14-19

Tel Aviv 14-20

Jerusalem 9-16

Beer Sheva 12-21

Eilat 22-30

Forecast: Partly cloudy, further decline in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

Low High

Amsterdam 09 48 20 66

Berlin 07 46 20 66

Buenos Aires 18 64 24 75

Calcutta 20 64 24 75

Chicago 08 46 20 66

Copenhagen 06 46 20 66

Frankfurt 06 46 20 66

Geneva 10 46 20 66

Hong Kong 26 78 28 88

London 16 51 27 61

Los Angeles 11 51 27 61

Madrid 04 46 20 66

Moscow 08 46 20 66

New York 11 51 27 61

Paris 11 51 27 61

Rome 11 51 27 61

Sydney 19 64 24 75

Tokyo 17 64 24 75

Toronto 04 46 20 66

Warsaw 08 46 20 66

Zurich 08 46 20 66

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